

# 2008 BWC Policy Alert

Managed Care Organization Policy Flash

December 2008

Alert # 12-2008-01 Cardiac Clearance Medical Position Paper

Reference Policy: Medical Position Paper Clarification

Location: <http://www.ohiobwc.com/provider/services/medpositionpapers.asp>

Clarification of the Cardiac Clearance Medical Test and Related Medication Billing

Issue: This policy alert is being provided to address the disconnect that has been experienced when stress tests are approved and the handling of charges for medications necessary during the test.

A surgeon may request an injured worker undergo cardiac clearance testing prior to performing surgery in order to avoid risk of complications during the surgery as a consequence of an underlying or a pre-existing cardiac condition. As stated in the position paper, it is permissible for the MCOs to authorize cardiac stress testing (CPT 93015) in addition to the history and physical examination and electrocardiogram (ECG/EKG) as part of the pre-operative evaluation for cardiac clearance in those injured workers at risk.

Although CPT code 93015 has been designated in the position paper as the only reimbursable procedure code for the cardiac stress testing, in most cases there are associated HCPCS "J" codes billed for the medications utilized with the test. J code examples of medications that may be utilized with cardiac stress testing include but are not limited to: J0152, Injection, adenosine for diagnostic use, 30 mg, J1245, Injection, dipyridamole, per 10 mg and J1250, Injection, dobutamine hydrochloride, per 250 mg.

These codes may be reimbursable but should be reviewed by the MCO for relatedness to the test along with medical necessity and appropriateness prior to reimbursement.

**Please remember that in addressing Cardiac Testing refer to the Cardiac Clearance Position Paper from Dr. Gregory Jewell (released October 2007).**

