

## Eligibility criteria for CT coronary angiogram (CTCA)

Southern Cross will only reimburse the cost of a CT coronary angiogram under a member's policy when at least **one** of the following criteria is met for that member:

1. The member is considered to be low or intermediate risk of coronary artery disease, with symptoms that could be due to coronary ischemia where the member cannot exercise **and** where pharmacological testing is unlikely to be helpful (reason to be documented in clinical notes).
2. The member is considered to be low or intermediate risk of coronary artery disease, with symptoms that could be due to coronary ischaemia where the results of a stress test is abnormal, due to one of the following:
  - Is positive or equivocal (ECG or ECHO)
  - Complex ventricular arrhythmia induced by exercise (frequent multi-focal VPBs that do not suppress with exercise, and/or exercise induced VT)
  - Exercise induced left bundle branch block
  - Typical chest pain, similar to what the member has experienced in everyday life, provoked by the stress test, relieved by rest, that is not associated with any ECG or echo abnormality.
3. The member's stress test results are unequivocally **negative** but on-going symptoms (documented in clinical notes) suggest coronary ischaemia.
4. The member is considered intermediate or high risk for cardiovascular disease and requires a preoperative assessment of the coronary arteries prior to undergoing elective major surgery.
5. The member has a new onset heart failure or dilated cardiomyopathy previously evaluated by echocardiography, where ischemia is the suspected aetiology and the CTCA is in lieu of an angiogram.
6. The member has become symptomatic (ischaemia equivalent), or demonstrates evidence of silent ischaemia, following CABG or angioplasty.
7. The member requires planning prior to definitive intervention when dealing with a chronic total occlusion (CTO), to determine the most appropriate therapeutic approach (either stenting, medical treatment or surgery).

The cost of a coronary CT angiogram will **not** be reimbursed in the following circumstances:

- where there are no symptoms and no evidence from diagnostic tests suggestive of coronary artery disease
- for screening based on risk factors where there are no symptoms – other than are set out above
- where the symptoms are of acute coronary syndrome (ACS)
- where an exercise treadmill test is unequivocally positive and there is high probability of coronary artery disease
- for assessment post coronary artery bypass graft surgery in the absence of cardiac symptoms
- where a body mass index (BMI) of over 40 is likely to impair the image quality
- where a coronary calcium score is greater than 1700 Agatston units at a prior scan.