

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. Chest pain or other cardiac symptoms suggestive of coronary artery disease (CAD) are present where an exercise treadmill test (ETT) and/or pharmacologic evoked stress testing is not possible due to a contraindication.
2. The results of an exercise treadmill test for suspected coronary artery disease either cannot be interpreted or are equivocal, which is defined as one of the following:
 - unexpected horizontal or down sloping ST segment depression in a patient with either no symptoms during an exercise treadmill test or with atypical symptoms of angina during an exercise treadmill test, or
 - symptoms typical of angina during an exercise treadmill test but the electrocardiogram (ECG) is normal.
3. The result of the exercise treadmill test is unequivocally negative but ongoing symptoms (documented) are strongly suggestive of ischaemia.
4. An assessment of coronary arteries is required prior to undergoing elective cardiac valve or aortic aneurysm surgery and the CT coronary angiogram is performed instead of a coronary angiogram.
5. There is echocardiographic evidence of suspected cardiac mass, or other morphologic abnormality of the heart, pericardium, or great vessels.
6. To determine the cause of new onset heart failure or dilated cardiomyopathy when CT coronary angiogram is performed instead of a coronary angiogram after echocardiography.
7. For evaluation of graft patency following coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgery where there is evidence of symptomatic ischaemia or suspected asymptomatic major ischaemia.
8. For the purposes of planning the most appropriate definitive approach for treatment of a coronary chronic total occlusion (CTO), ie either stenting, medical treatment or surgery.
9. For evaluation of the success of revascularization following stent placement involving the left main coronary artery when the CT coronary angiogram is performed instead of a coronary angiogram.

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

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- where the symptoms are of acute coronary syndrome (ACS)
- where an exercise treadmill test is unequivocally positive and there is intermediate or high probability of coronary artery disease
- for assessment post coronary artery bypass graft surgery in the absence of cardiac symptoms
- for evaluation of pulmonary vein anatomy prior to invasive radiofrequency ablation for atrial fibrillation
- 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 Garston units.

Please also ensure you are familiar with all **policy exclusions**, including:

- Acute care
- Congenital conditions
- Cosmetic treatment/procedures
- Health screening
- Treatment of any condition not detrimental to health
- Unapproved healthcare services.

Refer to the relevant policy document for specific conditions and exceptions that apply to these exclusions.