CT Cardiac Calcium Score

What is a CT Cardiac Score?
CT scanning, often referred to as a CAT (Computerized Axial Tomography) scan, is a noninvasive X-ray test that is used to diagnose a variety of medical conditions. It provides detailed cross sectional images of the body part in question to provide more clarity and detailed images than traditional X-rays. A Cardiac CT Scan is a noninvasive way of obtaining information about the location and extent of calcified plaque in the coronary arteries, the vessels that supply oxygen-containing blood to the heart wall. A physician’s referral is not required.

CPT Code
75571

Indications
Screening for Coronary Artery Disease.

Contraindications
Pregnancy, previous heart surgery, stents.

How Does Your Patient Prepare?
Avoid caffeine and smoking for four hours prior to the exam.

What Happens During the Test?
The patient will be asked to change into a gown removing clothing and jewelry. The patient will be positioned on the exam table. Electrodes will be attached to the patient’s chest and to an electrocardiograph (ECG) machine that records the electrical activity of the heart. The patient will be asked to remain very still during the exam and be given breathing instructions. There are no restrictions following the test.
The actual scanning time is usually 10 minutes.

The Results
A radiologist will analyze the images and send a signed report to the referring physician within one business day.

(Information adapted from www.radiologyinfo.org and Dr. Marvin Walker)

This information is intended for use as merely a guideline for referring physicians and their staff members only. It contains information pertaining to the most commonly ordered exams and indications. However, Shawnee Mission Medical Center Radiology does not recommend any particular examination. Individual radiologist preference or patient circumstances may dictate ordering alternative studies. Although contrast codes are not needed to place an order, the following contrast codes may be used in placing orders:
CT Contrast Q9967, MRI contrast A9577 and A9579.