

## **Guidelines for Medication Administration for Cardiac CTA**

**Admin Approval:**

**Next Review:**

Division/Champion: Cardiothoracic Imaging/Patel/Matar

Subject: Guidelines for Medication Administration for Cardiac Coronary CTA.

Purpose: Provide general instructions for the administration of medications for heart rate control and vasodilation prior to performing a Cardiac Coronary CTA.

Policy: The target heart rate for Cardiac CTA is <66 bpm. Communication with the Cardiac Team is required for any deviation of these guidelines. As these are typically non-emergent exams and the expertise required to perform the imaging and interpret the study, in-patient Cardiac CTA are typically only performed between the hours of 8AM – 5PM on weekdays and weekend days.

### **Out-patient Cardiac CTA Monday through Friday; 8AM – 5PM**

Out-patients scheduled for Cardiac CTA are managed by our Radiology Department nursing staff. The nurse will administer the medications as per EPIC orders at the time of the scan. The Cardiac Team resident/attending will provide orders in EPIC for the following:

- IV Metoprolol: Dose: 5 mg q 5 min X 4, as needed for HR >66 bpm, prior to scan
- Sublingual Nitroglycerine: Dose: 0.4mg, 3-6 minutes prior to contrasted scan

### **In-patient Cardiac CTA Monday through Friday; 8AM – 5PM**

In-patients scheduled for Cardiac CTA are managed by our Radiology Department nursing staff. The charge technologist should contact Radiology Care Unit or nursing staff assigned to CT to discuss availability of nursing staff. The Cardiac Team resident/attending will provide orders in EPIC for the following:

- IV Metoprolol: Dose: 5 mg q 5 min X 4, as needed for HR >66 bpm, prior to scan
- Sublingual Nitroglycerine: Dose: 0.4mg, 3-6 minutes prior to contrasted scan

### **In-patient Cardiac CTA Holidays and Weekend days; 8AM – 5PM**

In-patients scheduled for Cardiac CTA on the weekend are to be managed by the hospital floor/unit nursing staff. The ordering physician will provide orders for beta blocker or other appropriate medication for heart rate control with a target heart rate of <66 bpm.

- Recommended Medication: 100mg oral metoprolol until target rate of <66 bpm is met
- Sublingual nitroglycerine is not administered due to the lack of nursing services at the scanner during these hours

### **Emergency Department Cardiac CTA for Chest Pain**

The Emergency Department patient scheduled for Cardiac CTA is managed by the ED nursing staff. The ordering physician will provide orders for beta blocker or other appropriate medication for heart rate control with a target heart rate of <66 bpm.