

Protocol for Cardiac Testing

Coronary Artery Calcification (CAC) Scoring; Calcium Score; Coronary Computed Tomography Angiography (CCTA)

(Updated 01/28/2026)

- Do NOT use this guidance for individuals with known prior coronary artery disease (such as those who have had a heart attack, stent, or CABG), or those on a SI/SC for a cardiac condition.
- Higher calcium scores are associated with Major Adverse Cardiac Events (MACE) which can cause sudden incapacitation.
- Coronary CT Angiography (CCTA) can assess some “soft” plaque and give an estimate of coronary obstruction, but it is NOT the same as a cardiac catheterization. If a CCTA is performed instead of a cardiac catheterization (such as in the setting of a high coronary artery calcium score), it must include the CT-FFR (fractional flow reserve) measurement for applicable/questionable lesions. The FAA requires either the CT-FFR results (as applicable) or a cardiac catheterization to assess eligibility for medical certification or clearance.
- If the CT-FFR (Fractional Flow Reserve) is determined to be clinically significant, in most cases, the individual will need cardiac catheterization to determine if the obstruction will require treatment.

Disposition / Initial work-up for Calcium Score or CCTA Test Results

	Calcium Score				CCTA**			
	0	≤100	101-400	>400	0	<50%	50-70%**	>70%**
FIRST	Issue	Issue	RS*	Cath or CCTA**/CT-FFR	Issue	Issue	RS*/Cath or CCTA**/CT-FFR	Cath or CCTA**/CT-FFR
SECOND	Issue	Issue	RS*	Cath or CCTA**/CT-FFR	Issue	Issue	RS*/Cath or CCTA**/CT-FFR	Cath or CCTA**/CT-FFR
THIRD	Issue	Issue	RS*	RS*	Issue	Issue	RS*	RS*

*If Nuclear Stress Test shows ischemia, then pilot must have a Cardiac Cath (All Classes)

****If two or more Major vessels (e.g. LM, LAD, Cx, RCA) on CCTA show 50+%, then pilot must have a Cardiac Cath OR CCTA with CT-FFR.**

Follow-Up after Initial Work-Up for Yellow/Orange/Red Boxes	
Yellow Box	<p>1. Repeat the initial work-up in 1-2 weeks.</p> <p>2. If the initial work-up is repeated and the results are still Yellow/Orange/Red, then the patient should be referred to a specialist for further evaluation and management.</p>
Orange Box	<p>1. Repeat the initial work-up in 1-2 weeks.</p> <p>2. If the initial work-up is repeated and the results are still Orange/Red, then the patient should be referred to a specialist for further evaluation and management.</p>
Red Box	<p>1. Repeat the initial work-up in 1-2 weeks.</p> <p>2. If the initial work-up is repeated and the results are still Red, then the patient should be referred to a specialist for further evaluation and management.</p>

Annual follow-up with AASI CAD Worksheet, unless the pilot is put on Special Issuance (with specific, directed follow-up).