



UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA
SCHOOL of MEDICINE

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Department of
Family and
Community Medicine
Family Practice
Marriage and
Family therapy
Obstetrics
Sports Medicine

Department of
Internal Medicine
Cardiology
Endocrinology
Hematology
Immunology
Infectious Disease
Internal Medicine
Neurology
Oncology
Rheumatology

Department of
Nutrition

Department of
Pathology

Department of
Pediatrics
Adolescent Medicine
General Pediatrics
Pulmonology
Sexual Assault and Abuse

Department of
Psychiatry
Addiction
Adult Psychiatry
Behavioral Medicine
Child and Adolescent
Forensic Psychiatry
Geriatric Psychiatry
Psychology
Psychopharmacology

To Whom It May Concern:

I have discussed the services provided and understand them to be as follows. A patient is taken into the Nuclear Medicine Department and has an IV line started, at which time the patient receives an infusion of Dipyridamole over four minutes. Two minutes later the patient receives a dose of Sestamibi. The patient is then imaged with the nuclear camera once approximately 5 minutes later. Another set of perfusion images (SPECT) are obtained after approximately 30 minutes. Based upon this description the appropriate code is 78465. The description of this code states "Myocardial perfusion imaging; tomographic (SPECT) multiple studies (including attenuation correction when performed), at rest and / or stress (exercise or pharmacologic) and redistribution and / or rest injection with or without quantification". As you can clearly see from description of the procedure above, the patient has multiple studies - the first still image post Dipyridamole infusion (which is a chemical/pharmacological stressor) and the second set of images performed approximately 30 minutes later. The code does not state what order the studies must be performed or how long, just simply that the patient has multiple studies. The coding for this procedure is appropriately 78465. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Kristi A. Gutierrez, CCS-P, CPC
Compliance and Education Specialist

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