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January 7, 2019

Subject: A Formal Request for a National Coverage Determination for Coronary Artery Calcium Testing

To Whom It May Concern,

We are a group of cardiovascular professionals focused on early detection and prevention of cardiovascular diseases (CVD). Based on decades of scientific studies including the NIH-funded Multi-ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis (MESA), we have proposed that the use of coronary artery calcium (CAC) scoring with non-contrast CT for a selected population can improve CVD risk assessment in high-risk groups and reduce unnecessary statin therapy in low-risk individuals. In November 2018, the American College of Cardiology and American Heart Association endorsed this view and incorporated CAC testing in their clinical practice guidelines for cholesterol management.

Hence, we respectfully submit this letter as a formal request for a National Coverage Determination for CAC in primary prevention of CVD along with the enclosed justifications and supporting references.

The information fully explains the design, purpose, and method of using CAC for the early detection of coronary artery disease.

Sincerely yours,

On behalf,

Morteza Naghavi, M.D.