

## CTCA PATIENT INFORMATION

Appointment date: \_\_\_\_\_

Appointment time: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please arrive 1 hour before this time.**

### What is a CT Scan of the Coronary Arteries (CTCA)?

The blood vessels that supply blood to the heart are the coronary arteries (CA).

Previously, the only accurate way of assessing these was by a conventional coronary angiogram. This is an invasive test, which requires hospital admission and contrast injection through a large needle in an artery in your groin.

Today, the coronary arteries for most people can now be assessed using ultra- fast computed tomography (CT) scanners. The result -a CTCA- is a less invasive test that involves injecting contrast through an arm vein. It is quicker, has less potential complications and has been shown to be as accurate as a conventional coronary angiogram.

### What are the Risks?

As with any medical procedure, there are some small risks associated with the scan:

- **Radiation:** X-rays are used during the scan. We are proud to use the Siemens Definition FLASH -**the lowest dose CT scanner available in the world**. Typical dose around **0.5mSv** – 2mSv depending on patient size and technique. At the lower dose, this amount of radiation is about half the amount of background radiation that you receive in a year from natural sources, such as cosmic rays. This dose is **5 - 20 times LESS** than the dose from some other CT scanners.
- **Contrast Reaction:** Very rarely people experience an allergic reaction to the contrast (dye). This usually manifests as an itchy rash, which settles down by itself. Asthmatic patients may experience worsening of their asthma shortly after the injection. Patients with kidney failure require cautious contrast injection as contrast can (usually temporarily) worsen kidney function. There is a 1 in 250 000 chance of a life threatening (anaphylactic) reaction.
- **Contrast leakage:** Very rarely the contrast goes into the tissues under the skin in your arm rather than into the vein. This can cause bruising, swelling and mild discomfort. This usually resolves by itself. We will perform a test injection using saline to help prevent this from happening. In addition, a member of staff will be with you to watch the injection.

**TEST PREPARATION- PLEASE FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS IN BOX ON OTHER SIDE OF THIS PAGE**

### What to Expect:

- You will change into a gown and have your blood pressure and heart rate monitored. You will be assessed by a radiologist or cardiologist. You may require additional medication
- You will have a cannula (plastic needle) inserted in the vein near your elbow and ECG leads placed on your chest.
- You will be given GTN (Nitrolingual spray) under the tongue just before the scan to relax your coronary arteries, helping us to obtain the best images possible. This may give you a mild headache.
- You may notice a warm sensation and a metallic taste during the contrast injection. This is normal.
- For some scans, you need to hold your breath for up to 15 seconds and to lie flat for about 5-10 minutes.
- Although the scan time is fast- ¼ second, the process is more time consuming. Allow 2 hours.
- Allow for post procedure care and monitoring for a short period of time after the completion of the examination. The effects of beta-blockers should wear off after half a day, but please consider organising someone else to provide transport home, especially if you live far away.

### Results

Your referrer will be notified directly of any urgent/unexpected findings on the day of examination. Routinely, test results will take 2-3 days.

*If you have any questions about the test, please discuss this with your referring doctor. Also, there are radiographers and radiologists on hand at Castlereagh Imaging who will be able to address any of your concerns.*

**CONSENT: Please sign below if you are happy to proceed with the scan and bring this form with you:**

I \_\_\_\_\_ understand the above and give my consent to undergo CT scanning including assessment of the Coronary Arteries (CTCA).

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Witness \_\_\_\_\_

## SPECIALIST REFERRAL FOR CT CORONARY ANGIOGRAM (CTCA)

**PATIENT:**

**DOB:**

**TEL:**

**BOOKINGS PHONE: 02 8844 1750**  
PLEASE FAX THIS REFERRAL TO: 02 9687 2097

**DR**

**TEL:** **FAX:**

**PROVIDER NO:**

**Signature:** **Date:**

To qualify for **BULK BILLED** CT Coronary Angiogram (**CTCA**) MBS item no 57360 the following criteria **MUST** be met.

**1. Referrer** must be a  SPECIALIST or CONSULTANT PHYSICIAN  
And the

**2. Patient** must meet 1 of the 3 criteria below: Please indicate

Patient has stable symptoms consistent with coronary artery ischaemia, is at low to intermediate risk of coronary artery disease and would have been considered for coronary angiography: or

Patient requires exclusion of coronary artery anomaly or fistula: or

Patient will be undergoing non-coronary cardiac surgery.

**Other Cardiac Imaging:**

"Westmead protocol" CTCA and CT Thoracic angio

"TRIPLE RULE OUT"

Chest pain study with 1. LV function or 2. Perfusion

Carto-merge/Pulmonary vein study: Disc to

Westmead Private  Westmead Public

**Non-cardiac ULTRA LOW DOSE FLASH Imaging:**

Ct renal angio  FLASH Ct pulmonary angio  Other.....

**Relevant medical history:**  
*(Please attach any cardiac operation/angiogram reports)*

Previous coronary bypass grafts/stents

Previous MI/history of CAD

Previous stroke/other vascular disease

**Potential limiting factors:**

Beta-blocker intolerant asthma/Obesity/irregular rhythm

Renal impairment (**need recent creatinine or eGFR attached**)

Iodine Contrast or other allergy

**Other relevant medical history:**

Diabetes  Hyperlipidaemia

Hypertension  Family history of Heart Disease

Smoker

Brief History:

Medications:

**TEST PREPARATION- note referrers and patients -Not required for Carto-merge/PVS**

**1. PRE-MEDICATION REGIMEN-**

- **Metoprolol 50 mg night before and 50mg 6am morning of CTCA prescribed by referrer OR**
- **Chronic beta blocker / calcium channel therapy to <HR 65**

**2. Other preparation- (patient to tick when completed)**

Take normal morning medications except metformin

Fast for 4 hours if possible prior to CTCA.

No caffeine/coffee/tea/energy drinks for 24 hours prior to CTCA

No Cialis, Viagra, Levitra, or similar for 36 hours prior to CTCA

If known renal failure, recent blood test performed and attached



**CASTLEREAGH IMAGING 20-22 Mons Road, Westmead NSW Phone - 02 8844 1750**

<b>Radiologists</b>	<b>Cardiologists</b>
Dr John O'Rourke Dr Julian Adler Dr John Fraser	Dr Clara Chow Dr Aravinda Thiagalingam