

Computed Tomography Thorax

Adjudication Guideline

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Medical

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1. Abstract

1.1 For Members

A chest CT (computed tomography) scan is an imaging method that uses x-rays to create cross-sectional pictures of the chest and upper abdomen.

1.2 For Medical Professionals

CT is usually the second step when the chest X-ray has identified an abnormality that requires further assessment, or when the disease course is prolonged, and another condition is suspected. **Table 1** lists common indications for ordering chest CT. Standard CT using current technologies uses the same minimum resolution as high-resolution CT but is reconstructed with a larger slice thickness in multiple imaging planes. Thinner slices can be reconstructed to visualise smaller structures in finer detail. Thicker reconstructions are used to make small lesions (eg. nodules) more conspicuous. Use of intravenous contrast is usually preferred but is contraindicated in patients with a history of anaphylactic reactions to iodine. Intravenous contrast should be used with caution in patients with underlying renal impairment because of the increased risk of contrast-induced nephropathy.

Patients should expect to be in the imaging department for approximately 30 minutes and will need to lie flat for about 10 minutes while being positioned and scanned. CT carries a higher risk of radiation-induced malignancy than a chest X-ray and should be considered only if it will change management.

2. Scope

This adjudication rule highlights the coverage details for medically necessary indications for Computed tomography, thorax as per the policy terms and conditions of each health insurance plan administered by Daman.

3. Adjudication Policy

3.1 Eligibility / Coverage Criteria

Computed tomography (CT) scans provide greater clarity than regular X-rays and are used to further examine abnormalities found on chest X-rays. They may be used for detection and evaluation of various disease and conditions in the chest, e.g., tumour, inflammatory disease, vascular disease, congenital abnormalities, trauma and symptoms such as haemoptysis.

The goal of thoracic CT is to demonstrate normal and pathologic anatomy and physiology within the chest.

Table 1 Major indications (not limited to)

Major Indications ^{3,4}
Evaluation of an abnormality detected on a chest X-ray
Evaluation of aortic disease
Malignant disease
Evaluation of pleural disease
Trauma cases
Pericardial disease

3.2 Requirements for Coverage

ICD and CPT codes must be coded to the highest level of specificity.

3.3 Non-Coverage

Computed tomography, thorax will not be covered by Daman (for any plan) if it fails to fulfil the coverage criteria.

Plan	Coverage
Visitor plan	Not covered.
Basic Plan	Covered as per medical Criteria and member SOB.
Enhanced Plan	Covered as per medical Criteria and member SOB.
Thiqa	Covered as per medical Criteria and member SOB.

3.4 Payment and Coding Rules

Please apply regulator payment rules and regulations and relevant coding manuals for ICD, CPT, etc.

4. Denial Codes

Code	Code Description
MNEC-003	Service is not clinically indicated based on good clinician practise.
MNEC-004	Service is not clinically indicated based on good clinician practise, without additional supporting diagnosis /activities.
MNEC-005	Service / supply may be appropriate, but too frequent.

5. Appendices

5.1 References

- <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6857267/#sec1-4>
- https://thorax.bmj.com/content/70/Suppl_2/ii1
- [https://www.bjaed.org/article/S2058-5349\(17\)30125-7/fulltext](https://www.bjaed.org/article/S2058-5349(17)30125-7/fulltext)
- <https://www.racgp.org.au/afp/2015/august/guide-to-thoracic-imaging>
- <https://www.atsjournals.org/doi/full/10.1164/rccm.201501-0017OC>
- [https://journal.chestnet.org/article/S0012-3692\(16\)46170-2/fulltext](https://journal.chestnet.org/article/S0012-3692(16)46170-2/fulltext)

5.2 Revision History

Date	Change(s)
14/03/2023	Creation of Adjudication Guideline-External Instruction Template.
30/12/2024	V2.0 General Content and Template update
25/11/2025	V2.1 Template update References update
12/05/2026	V2.2 General Content and Template update

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