



April 28, 2020

Dear Dr. [Medical Director],

As you are aware, the COVID-19 pandemic and response efforts have altered healthcare practices globally and across the nation and have forced healthcare systems to evolve quickly to provide care to those who need it most. Physicians specializing in Nuclear Cardiology are no different and have adapted quickly to make changes in protocols and workflow to protect patients, staff, and themselves from exposure to COVID-19.

With that in mind, leaders in the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology have published a statement titled “*Guidance and Best Practices for Nuclear Cardiology Laboratories during the Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic: An Information Statement from ASNC and SNMMI.*” The statement makes a number of recommendations regarding hygiene practices, methods that conserve personal protective equipment, and suggests a classification system for which patients should have their procedures postponed to aid labs in developing their response to COVID-19. Of note, PET is recommended where available given the rapid throughput and the more limited time the patient must spend in the lab. In addition, exercise stress testing, with or without vasodilator stress, is not recommended given the risk of exposure of respiratory droplets to staff. A discussion with the referring physician may be required to change the order. Pharmacological stress with vasodilators is preferred as it minimizes droplet exposure to staff and enables further distance between patient and staff.

We appreciate your consideration of the ASNC recommendations and ask that any determinations made about coverage for SPECT and PET imaging are in compliance the ASNC/ SNMMI guidelines and methodology designed to keep patients and staff as safe as possible during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

We would welcome any further discussion or questions. Please contact Georgia Lawrence, ASNC Director, Regulatory Affairs at [glawrence@asnc.org](mailto:glawrence@asnc.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,

Sharmila Dorbala, MD, MPH  
President,  
American Society of Nuclear Cardiology