

ADVOCACY UPDATE

United Healthcare Clarifies Policy on CTA as First-line Test

Last week, ASNC President-elect Randall Thompson, MD, FASNC, Health Policy Committee Chair David Wolinsky, MD, MASNC, and staff met with United Healthcare (UHC) leaders regarding a recent policy on coverage for computed tomographic angiography (CTA).

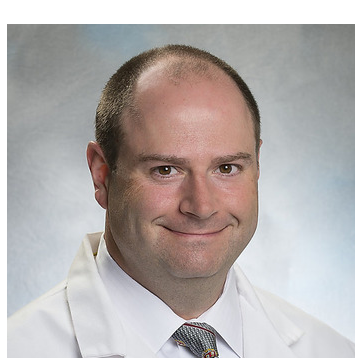
The UHC policy, effective April 1, 2020, allows coverage for CTA as a first-line test for patients with stable chest pain and low to intermediate risk of coronary artery disease. ASNC's leaders expressed significant concerns that the policy would act as a de facto directive to order CTA over other stress test modalities, such as PET, SPECT, or stress echo. However, the UHC leadership emphasized that **the company is not mandating practice changes where other forms of stress testing are appropriate for the patient.** The new policy is aimed at supporting CTA coverage where its use is appropriate, rather than forcing the use of one modality over the other.

"ASNC is pleased that United Healthcare leaders were able to meet with us to clarify our concerns over the policy on CTA," said Dr. Thompson. "Our priority is always to advocate for policies that allow practitioners to deliver the appropriate care for each patient's circumstances."

[LEARN MORE](#)

NEW WEBINAR

'A Cardiologist's Guide to the CT Components of Hybrid Imaging: Guidance for Interpretation and Billing'



Cardiology and radiology expertise will come together this **Thursday, May 28, at 7:30 PM (U.S. EDT)** for a special webinar developed to answer your questions about CT scans and hybrid imaging.

Radiologist **Michael Steigner, MD** (see photo), of Brigham & Women's Hospital/Harvard Medical School, will join cardiologists **Randall Thompson, MD, FASNC**, ASNC president-elect, of St. Luke's Mid America Heart Institute; **Mouaz Al-Mallah, MD, MSc, FASNC**, of Houston Methodist Hospital; and **Kyle Lehenbauer, MD**, of the University of Missouri.

They will answer these questions and many more:

- How should you approach **noncardiac findings** on a chest CT scan?
- What do the CT portions of hybrid images reveal, and how does that information boost **diagnostic accuracy**?
- Benefits of **hybrid imaging**: What can you learn by reading the CT scan alongside SPECT or PET images?
- What can you learn from **coronary calcium studies**?
- **Reimbursement requirements**: What do the new hybrid imaging billing codes require?

ASNC members are invited to attend this webinar free of charge. Non-members may join for \$25, or [join ASNC](#) and immediately begin enjoying all of ASNC's [member benefits](#).

[REGISTER NOW](#)

COVID-19 NEWS & RESOURCES

Paycheck Protection Program Loan Forgiveness Application Now Available. Forgiveness is available if the loan is used for qualified expenses, such as payroll costs. Not more than 25 percent of eligible non-payroll costs – for example, rent obligations – can be counted toward the forgiveness amount. The [application](#) includes **instructions for calculating eligibility for forgiveness** and how much may be forgiven. The instructions also outline the **documentation necessary to support the loan forgiveness application** and offer guidance for retaining all documentation demonstrating compliance with PPP requirements. Forgiveness is based on the eight-week covered period that begins with disbursement of the loan. Learn more on the [Small Business Administration website](#) and from its [FAQ](#).

IAEA Posts "COVID-19 Pandemic: Transitioning to a 'New Normal' – When and How." This timely webinar features **ASNC President Sharmila Dorbala, MD, MPH, FASNC**, as part of a panel of experts from around the world. [Watch now](#).

[COVID-19 RESOURCE CENTER](#)

ASNC UPDATES

- **ASNC's Industry Forum Breaks Attendance Record.** More than 100 individuals representing 20 companies and more than a dozen sessions logged on ASNC's 10th Industry Forum, convened virtually last week. ASNC leaders led discussions on priorities that are emerging as the COVID-19 pandemic begins to wane, new opportunities for collaboration, and trends that are developing as imaging teams transition back to practice. Attendees outlined a "new road forward" characterized by more virtual education, training, and engagement as well as efforts to reassure patients whose fear of the coronavirus may be preventing them from scheduling important cardiovascular tests and treatments. **Watch for the release of ASNC's community education and outreach toolkit.**
- **Thousands Download ASNC/IAEA/SNMMI Guidance on Reestablishing Non-emergent Care.** To address practice needs, the organizations released an advance copy of the information statement. [Read and share the recommendations.](#)
- **The CME and MOC You Need Now.** ASNC's **Nuclear Cardiology Knowledge Self-Assessment Program (NCKSAP)** includes eight modules, each with 30 multiple-choice questions, answers, rationales, and references. [Download the modules from ASNC's Learning Center.](#)

[ASNC's LATEST NEWS](#)

FINAL CALL

Nominations for 2021 Board of Directors Due Thursday, May 28



The ASNC Nominating Committee invites you to **recommend members to serve on the Society's Board of Directors.**

Directors serve four-year terms and are charged with advancing ASNC's mission.

The Nominating Committee will review the recommendations and submit a slate of nominations for approval by the Board. The approved slate will be voted on by the membership at the annual business meeting.

To be considered, nominations must be received by **Thursday, May 28.**

[SUBMIT NOMINATIONS](#)

MAY 27 AGENDA

Join Us for Tomorrow's Virtual Seminar on Vascular Calcification



Elena Aikawa, MD, PhD



Piotr Slomka, PhD

ASNC's complimentary **Virtual CV Molecular Imaging Seminar Series** continues this week with a one-hour session at **11:00 AM (U.S. EDT) on Wednesday, May 27.**

Elena Aikawa, MD, PhD, of Harvard Medical School, will present a didactic lecture and then trainees from the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center laboratory of **Piotr Slomka, PhD**, will detail their research on the hot topic of **vascular calcification.**

We invite you to attend this mission-forward program free of charge. [View the schedule](#), and register for as many sessions as your schedule permits.

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

P.S. - If you missed last week's seminars on **new technology in nuclear cardiology**, check out the recordings on [ASNC.org](#).

Is This Your Last ASNC FLASHPOINT?

Starting June 1, ASNC FLASHPOINT: NEWS YOU NEED NOW

will be delivered to ASNC members only.

To ensure you continue receiving this valuable publication:

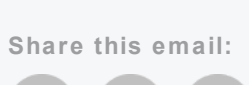
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