



## Vascular Screening Examination Guidelines

### I. PURPOSE

To screen patients for the presence of significant vascular disease, specifically carotid atherosclerosis, lower extremity peripheral artery disease (PAD), and abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA).

### II. INDICATIONS

- A. Age >65 years
- B. Age >50 years with cardiovascular risk factors
- C. Adults >45 years who wish to undergo early screening for atherosclerotic vascular disease for whom an abnormal finding would prompt modification of their lifestyle practices or medical care
- D. Family history of AAA
- E. This study protocol is appropriate for screening of asymptomatic patients only. Patients with symptoms suggestive of vascular disease (e.g., prior TIA or stroke, pulsatile abdominal mass, lower extremity claudication) should be referred for the appropriate complete diagnostic study.

### III. LIMITATIONS

- A. Patients who are unable to lie flat or still may prove difficult to scan
- B. Patients with very thick, muscular necks may pose a challenge for the carotid examination; similarly abdominal obesity will pose a challenge for the aorta examination
- C. Patients with impaired mental status
- D. Bowel gas will pose a challenge for the aorta examination. It is preferred that patients do not eat 4-6 hours prior to the examination but is not mandatory