Cardiac Catheterization:

- Right and left heart catheterization (37.23)
- Right Heart Catheterization (37.21)
- Left Heart Catheterization (37.22)

☐ Outpatient
  - Elective (scheduled) procedure; expected to be released same day
  - Outpatient with extended recovery (OPP; 23 hour stay)

Consider if:

- Presence of aortic stenosis
- If patient experiences complications, such as groin bleeding (hematoma); anaphylactic reactions; exacerbation of co morbid conditions

☐ Inpatient

Consider if:

- Acute MI
- If patient experiences significant unforeseen events

**Note:** The determination of the level of care is dependent on the medical judgment of the admitting physician. The key element is physician expectation at the time of admission, as long as the expectation of a prolonged stay is based on generally accepted medical guidelines, rather than personal idiosyncrasy or matters of convenience for the patient, his or her family, or the physician.

When initiating hospital care, the physician should ask and document the findings to the following questions:

1) Is it reasonable to expect this patient’s condition/concern will stabilize enough for a safe discharge within 24 hours?
   a) If the answer is yes, consider **observation** status and document why in the medical record.
   b) If the answer is no, the reason for the status and the patient’s safety concern still needs to be clearly documented in the medical record.

2) Is the treatment being given to this patient simplistic, and predominantly assessment and monitoring?
a) If the answer is yes, consider observation status and document why in the medical record.

3) Are this patient’s co-morbid conditions stable or “not a factor” that will affect the patient’s ability to stabilize enough for a safe discharge within 24 hours?
   a) If the answer is yes, consider observation status.
   b) If the answer is no, document the level of care needed and explicitly state how the co-morbidities impact the level of care decision and the patient’s safety (i.e.- health threat) in the medical record.

If it is a procedure-based hospitalization, the physician should ask and document the findings to the following questions:

4) What is the standard of care for this procedure at Wellspan Health?
5) If the procedure standard is typically outpatient or outpatient with extended recovery does the patient have a condition or co-morbidity that necessitates another level of care (i.e.-OPP or Inpatient) that is safest for the patients?
   a) If the answer is yes, that level of care should be ordered and the reason why should be clearly stated in the medical record in the post-procedural phase.