

Appropriate Use Criteria Program

Background

The Protecting Access to Medicare Act (PAMA) of 2014, Section 218(b), established a new program to increase the rate of appropriate advanced diagnostic imaging services provided to Medicare beneficiaries. Examples of such advanced imaging services include:

- Computed Tomography (CT)
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
- Positron Emission Tomography (PET)
- Nuclear Medicine

Under this program, at the time a practitioner orders an advanced diagnostic imaging service for a Medicare beneficiary, he/she, or clinical staff acting under his/her direction, will be required to consult a qualified Clinical Decision Support Mechanism (CDSM).

CDSMs are electronic portals through which appropriate use criteria (AUC) is accessed. The CDSM provides a determination of whether the order adheres to AUC, or if the AUC consulted was not applicable (e.g., no AUC is available to address the patient's clinical condition). A consultation must take place at the time of the order for imaging services that will be furnished in one of the below settings and paid for under one of the below payment systems.

Ultimately, practitioners whose ordering patterns are considered outliers will be subject to prior authorization. Information on outlier methodology and prior authorization is not yet available.

This program impacts all physicians and practitioners (as defined in 1861(r) or described in 1842(b)(18)(C)), that order advanced diagnostic imaging services and physicians, practitioners and facilities that furnish advanced diagnostic imaging services in a physician's office, hospital outpatient department (including the emergency department), an ambulatory surgical center or an independent diagnostic testing facility (IDTF) and whose claims are paid under the physician fee schedule, hospital outpatient prospective payment system or ambulatory surgical center payment system.

Program Timeline

Currently, the program is set to be fully implemented on January 1, 2022 which means AUC consultations with qualified CDSMs are required to occur along with reporting of consultation information on the furnishing professional and furnishing facility claim for the advanced diagnostic imaging service.

Referring physician and practitioner orders must include the modifiers. Claims that fail to append this information will not be paid. Prior to this date the program will operate in an Education and Operations Testing Period starting January 1, 2020 during which claims will not be denied for failing to include proper AUC consultation information.

HCPCS Modifiers

MA	Ordering professional is not required to consult a clinical decision support mechanism due to service being rendered to a patient with a suspected or confirmed emergency medical condition
MB	Ordering professional is not required to consult a clinical decision support mechanism due to the significant hardship exception of insufficient internet access
MC	Ordering professional is not required to consult a clinical decision support mechanism due to the significant hardship exception of electronic health record or clinical decision support mechanism vendor issues
MD	Ordering professional is not required to consult a clinical decision support mechanism due to the significant hardship exception of extreme and uncontrollable circumstances
ME	The order for this service adheres to the appropriate use criteria in the clinical decision support mechanism consulted by the ordering professional
MF	The order for this service does not adhere to the appropriate use criteria in the qualified clinical decision support mechanism consulted by the ordering professional
MG	The order for this service does not have appropriate use criteria in the clinical decision support mechanism consulted by the ordering professional
MH	Unknown if ordering professional consulted a clinical decision support mechanism for this service, related information was not provided to the furnishing professional or provider
QQ	Ordering professional consulted a qualified clinical decision support mechanism for this service and the related data was provided to the furnishing professional (effective date: 7/1/18)

G codes

eviCore healthcare's Clinical Decision Support Mechanism	G1001
MedCurrent OrderWise™	G1002
Medicalis Clinical Decision Support Mechanism	G1003
National Decision Support Company CareSelect™*	G1004
AIM Specialty Health ProviderPortal®*	G1007
Cranberry Peak ezCDS	G1008
Sage Health Management Solutions Inc. RadWise®	G1009
Stanson Health's Stanson CDS	G1010
AgileMD's Clinical Decision Support Mechanism	G1012
EvidenceCare's Imaging Advisor	G1013
InveniQA's Semantic Answers in Medicine™	G1014
Reliant Medical Group CDSM	G1015
Speed of Care CDSM	G1016
HealthHelp's Clinical Decision Support Mechanism	G1017
INFINX CDSM	G1018
LogicNets AUC Solution*	G1019
Curbside Clinical Augmented Workflow	G1011
E*HealthLine Clinical Decision Support Mechanism	G1011
Intermountain Clinical Decision Support Mechanism	G1011
Persivia Clinical Decision Support	G1011

HCPCS Advanced Imaging Procedure Codes

Magnetic Resonance Imaging/Magnetic Resonance Angiography

70336, 70540, 70542, 70543, 70544, 70545, 70546, 70547, 70548, 70549, 70551, 70552, 70553, 70554, 70555, 71550, 71551, 71552, 71555, 72141, 72142, 72146, 72147, 72148, 72149, 72156, 72157, 72158, 72159, 72195, 72196, 72197, 72198, 73218, 73219, 73220, 73221, 73222, 73223, 73225, 73718, 73719, 73720, 73721, 73722, 73723, 73725, 74181, 74182, 74183, 74185, 75557, 75559, 75561, 75563, 75565, 76498, 77046, 77047, 77048, 77049

Computerized Tomography

70450, 70460, 70470, 70480, 70481, 70482, 70486, 70487, 70488, 70490, 70491, 70492, 70496, 70498, 71250, 71260, 71270, 71275, 72125, 72126, 72127, 72128, 72129, 72130, 72131, 72132, 72133, 72191, 72192, 72193, 72194, 73200, 73201, 73202, 73206, 73700, 73701, 73702, 73706, 74150, 74160, 74170, 74174, 74175, 74176, 74177, 74178, 74261, 74262, 74712, 74713, 75571, 75572, 75573, 75574, 75635, 76380, 76497

Single-Photon Emission Computed Tomography

76390

Nuclear Medicine

78012, 78013, 78014, 78015, 78016, 78018, 78020, 78070, 78071, 78072, 78075, 78099, 78102, 78103, 78104, 78110, 78111, 78120, 78121, 78122, 78130, 78135, 78140, 78185, 78191, 78195, 78199, 78201, 78202, 78215, 78216, 78226, 78227, 78230, 78231, 78232, 78258, 78261, 78262, 78264, 78265, 78266, 78267, 78268, 78278, 78282, 78290, 78291, 78299, 78300, 78305, 78306, 78315, 78350, 78351, 78399, 78414, 78428, 78429, 78430, 78431, 78432, 78433, 78434, 78445, 78451, 78452, 78453, 78454, 78456, 78457, 78458, 78459, 78466, 78468, 78469, 78472, 78473, 78481, 78483, 78491, 78492, 78494, 78496, 78499, 78579, 78580, 78582, 78597, 78598, 78599, 78600, 78601, 78605, 78606, 78608, 78609, 78610, 78630, 78635, 78645, 78650, 78660, 78699, 78700, 78701, 78707, 78708, 78709, 78725, 78730, 78740, 78761, 78799, 78800, 78801, 78802, 78803, 78804, 78811, 78812, 78813, 78814, 78815, 78816, 78830, 78831, 78832, 78835, 78999

C codes

C8900, C8901, C8902, C8903, C8905, C8908, C8909, C8910, C8911, C8912, C8913, C8914, C8918, C8919, C8920, C8931, C8932, C8933, C8934, C8935, C8936