



October 2019

Effective January 1, 2020, **Medicare (not Medicare Advantage Plans) is requiring** all referring providers to consult an Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC) module prior to ordering advanced diagnostic imaging services. This mandate applies to all MRI and CT exams ordered by your practice for Medicare patients. It is important to note that the law does not mandate ordering providers to strictly adhere to the AUC, just consult AUC.

We are notifying you of the importance of this requirement to ensure the implementation process goes smoothly and your patients continue to receive the best quality care.

When ordering an MRI or CT, you will need to consult an AUC through a qualified Clinical Decision Support Mechanism (qCDSM). A qCDSM is an interactive, electronic tool used by clinicians that communicates appropriate use criteria information to the user and assists them in making the most appropriate treatment decision for the patient's specific condition.

Clinical Decision Support Systems may be incorporated into your current EHR system workflow. We suggest reaching out to your System Administrator for further information. There are also free online portal qCDSM options that may be used at no cost to you.

Radiology practices are not allowed to consult the qCDSM on the provider's behalf. Radiology practices are required to report which qCDSM was consulted. When the referring physician receives the results of the consultation (adhere, not adhere or not applicable) this information will have to be reported on the referral along with the mechanism number of the qCDSM consulted.

CMS has created a series of G-codes and modifiers to report this information on advanced diagnostic imaging claims. Without this information on the claim form Rhode Island Medical Imaging, starting January 1, 2021 will not be able to see these Medicare patients. We ask that you please provide this information to our office when ordering advanced diagnostic imaging studies in order to avoid unnecessary delays in patient care.

Please start this new procedure on January 1, 2020 as Medicare has instructed. In order to be an ongoing resource for you during this implementation process, Rhode Island Medical Imaging will be implementing a Clinical Decision Support link on our website ([www.rimirad.com](http://www.rimirad.com)) to assist you with as much information as possible and a qCDSM option. We will update our website as the information is provided to us. You may also reach out to the American College of Radiology at [PAMA-AUC@acr.org](mailto:PAMA-AUC@acr.org) for assistance.

Should you have questions about the new requirement, please reach out to RIMI's Marketing Department at [marketing@rimirad.com](mailto:marketing@rimirad.com).

In order to ensure the most appropriate and best possible care for our patients, we appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

*JoAnn Barbato*

JoAnn Barbato  
Executive Director, Patient Financial Services, Billing and Compliance  
Rhode Island Medical Imaging