

Meet the PAMA Mandate Using OrderWise



Starting **January 1, 2020**, providers are expected to participate in an educational and operations testing period under the Medicare Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC) Program. At the end of this period, Medicare reimbursement for advanced outpatient imaging procedures (CT, MR, NM, PET) will be at risk if providers do not meet the requirements of the AUC Program initially set forth in the Protecting Access to Medicare Act (PAMA, 2014).

REQUIREMENTS OF THE AUC PROGRAM

Ordering professionals must consult Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC) for advanced outpatient imaging (CT, MR, NM, PET) orders.

Ordering professionals must access AUCs through a qualified clinical decision support mechanism (qCDSM).

Only AUCs from qualified Provider-Led Entities (qPLE) may be used under this program

Claims by furnishing professionals must specify CDS consultation (to be clarified in MPFS CY 2019 Rule).

Ordering Professionals identified as outliers will be required to obtain prior authorization

What are Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC)?

“AUC are a set of individual criteria that present information in a manner that links a specific clinical condition or presentation, one or more services, and an assessment of the appropriateness of the service(s). Evidence-based AUC for imaging can assist clinicians in selecting the imaging study that is most likely to improve health outcomes for patients based on their individual context.” - *Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, MPFS CY 2017*

Eight Priority Clinical Areas

Although all ordering professionals must consult CDS for advanced diagnostic imaging, applicable to Medicare Part B outpatients, CMS has identified eight priority clinical areas that may be used for reporting purposes starting January 1, 2020.

The eight clinical areas are:

- Coronary Artery Disease (suspected or diagnosed)
- Suspect Pulmonary Embolism
- Headache (traumatic or non-traumatic)
- Hip Pain
- Low Back Pain
- Shoulder Pain (to include suspected rotator cuff injury)
- Cancer of the lung(primary or metastatic, suspected or diagnosed)
- Cervical or Neck Pain



WHO CAN PROVIDE APPROVED AUC?

Qualified provider-led entities (qPLE) are approved to "develop, modify or endorse" appropriate use criteria. To date, the following 17 qPLEs have been approved through an annual application process. Newly approved qPLEs are announced in June of every year.

- American College of Cardiology Foundation
- American College of Radiology
- Banner University Medical Group-Tucson University of Arizona
- CDI Quality Institute
- Cedars-Sinai Health System
- Intermountain Healthcare
- Massachusetts General Hospital, Department of Radiology
- Medical Guidelines Institute
- Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
- National Comprehensive Cancer Network
- Sage Evidence-based Medicine & Practice Institute
- Society for Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging
- University of California Medical Campuses
- University of Utah Health
- University of Washington School of Medicine
- Virginia Mason Medical Center
- Weill Cornell Medicine Physicians Organization

WHERE DOES ORDERWISE™ FIT IN THE PICTURE?

OrderWise™ is a clinical decision support mechanism (CDSM). A CDSM is “an interactive, electronic tool for use by clinicians that communicate AUC information to the user and assists them in making the most appropriate treatment decision for a patient’s specific clinical condition.” - *Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, MPFS CY 2017*

IMPORTANT DATES

June 2017
CDSM and PLE
qualifications

November 2019
MPFS CY2019 Final Rule to
include reporting
requirements for AUC
Program

January 2021
Reimbursement denials begin
for furnishing providers that do
not include required information
on claims

January 2018
MIPS credits granted for
consulting CDS as a clinical
practice improvement activity

January 2020
- Educational and operations testing period begins
- Ordering professionals must consult AUC through qualified CDSM
- Furnishing professionals must document consultation on claims