Understanding Appropriate Use Criteria for CY 2020

Ordering Professionals
WHEN?
- “Educational and operations testing period” starting on January 1, 2020
- Participation is encouraged; **no** claims will be denied for missing or inaccurate AUC information

WHAT?
- Qualified CDS mechanism (QCDSM) consulted
- AUC adherence score
- NPI of ordering clinician

HOW?
- G-code for QCDSM consulted
- Modifiers indicate whether the order:
  - Adhered
  - Did not adhere
  - Was not applicable to AUC
  - Is eligible for an exception
THE NEW AUC RULE

Current CMS Requirements & Definitions

APPLICABLE IMAGING SERVICES?
- MRI
- CT
- NM
- PET

APPLICABLE SETTINGS?
- Physician offices/imaging centers
- Hospital outpatient departments (including ED)
- Ambulatory surgical centers
- Independent diagnostic testing facilities

APPLICABLE PAYMENT SYSTEMS?
- Medicare Physician Fee Schedule
- Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System
- ASC payment system

EXCEPTIONS?
- Inpatient (Medicare Part A)
- Life-threatening conditions
- Hardships (lack of Internet, EHR failure, disasters)

AUC?
- Evidence-based guidelines for imaging appropriateness
THE NEW AUC RULE

Current CMS Requirements & Definitions

FURNISHING PROFESSIONAL?
- Us (radiologist, imaging center, radiology department)

ORDERING PROFESSIONAL?
- You (physician or non-physician)

QUALIFIED CLINICAL SUPPORT MECHANISM?
- CMS-approved electronic tool for using AUC
- Scores based on appropriateness

G-CODES?
- CMS code for “Temporary Procedures & Professional Services”

MODIFIERS?
- Two-digit at end of code

APPROPRIATENESS SCORE?
- Higher the score, the more appropriate the test
- Colors indicate appropriateness
## CMS QCDSMs and G-Codes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QCDSM</th>
<th>G-code</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applied Pathways CURION™ Platform</td>
<td>G1000</td>
<td><a href="https://appliedpathways.com/">https://appliedpathways.com/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eviCore healthcare’s Clinical Decision Support Mechanism</td>
<td>G1001</td>
<td><a href="https://www.evicore.com/">https://www.evicore.com/</a> (CDSM information available in November)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MedCurrent OrderWiseTM</td>
<td>G1002</td>
<td><a href="https://www.medcurrent.com/">https://www.medcurrent.com/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Decision Support Company CareSelect™**</td>
<td>G1004</td>
<td><a href="https://nationaldecisionsupport.com/pama/">https://nationaldecisionsupport.com/pama/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test Appropriate CDSM*</td>
<td>G1006</td>
<td><a href="http://www.testappropriate.com/#home">http://www.testappropriate.com/#home</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIM Specialty Health ProviderPortal**</td>
<td>G1007</td>
<td><a href="https://aimspecialtyhealth.com/solutions/health-systems-and-providers/aim-inform/">https://aimspecialtyhealth.com/solutions/health-systems-and-providers/aim-inform/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cranberry Peak ezCDS</td>
<td>G1008</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cranberrypeak.com/">http://www.cranberrypeak.com/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanson Health’s Stanson CDS</td>
<td>G1010</td>
<td><a href="https://stansonhealth.com/pama/">https://stansonhealth.com/pama/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualified Tool Not Otherwise Specified**</td>
<td>G1011</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Offers free web-based CDS tool

** Other CMS QCDSMs: AgileMD’s Clinical Decision Support Mechanism, Cerner CDS mechanism, EvidenceCare’s Imaging Advisor, Evinance Decision Support, Flying Aces Speed of Care Decision Support, HealthHelp’s Clinical Decision Support Mechanism, Infinx CDSM, Inveni-QA’s Semantic Answers in Medicine™, LogicNets’ Decision Engines, New Century Health’s Care Pro, Reliant Medical Group CDSM (Source: https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Appropriate-Use-Criteria-Program/CDSM.html)
# CMS AUC Modifiers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Modifier</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Medical Condition</td>
<td>MA</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardship Exception</td>
<td>MB</td>
<td>Ordering professional is not required to consult a clinical decision support mechanism due to the significant hardship exception of insufficient internet access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardship Exception</td>
<td>MC</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardship Exception</td>
<td>MD</td>
<td>Ordering professional is not required to consult a clinical decision support mechanism due to the significant hardship exception of extreme and uncontrollable circumstances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUC Adherence</td>
<td>ME</td>
<td>The order for this service adheres to the appropriate use criteria in the clinical decision support mechanism consulted by the ordering professional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUC Adherence</td>
<td>MF</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUC Adherence</td>
<td>MG</td>
<td>The order for this service does not have appropriate use criteria in the clinical decision support mechanism consulted by the ordering professional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing AUC Consultation Information</td>
<td>MH</td>
<td>Unknown if ordering professional consulted a clinical decision support mechanism for this service, related information was not provided to the furnishing professional or provider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>QQ</td>
<td>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)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: CMS MLN Matters 11268 dated July 26, 2019
Accessing a QCDSM

1. CMS approved QCDSMs
2. **Free** web application (e.g., CareSelect, AIM Specialty Health, Test Appropriate CDSM)
3. CDS integrated into EHR
4. RadNet’s Provider Portal *(coming later in 2020)*
Performing AUC Consultation

Systems may vary

- Step 1: Enter required information
  - Patient age
  - Patient sex
  - Procedure/service ordered
  - Clinical indication(s)/reason(s) for exam

- Step 2: Appropriateness score
  - Procedure/service ordered
  - Alternatives

- Step 3: Select procedure

- Step 4: AUC confirmation with consultation information

- Step 5: AUC confirmation delivery means

- Step 6: Forward consultation information (G-code + modifier) to RadNet with order
Performing AUC Consultation

How AUC Works

CareSelect Open Access Portal (registration required) -- https://openaccess.careselect.org

Clinical vignette: Order a CT head/brain for a 75yo male with headache

Coming by end of 2019
What You Need To Do

RadNet can accommodate AUC consultation information in multiple ways:

- Fax
- EHR
- Provider Portal *(Coming later in 2020)*
- Phone
AUC is better patient care

- AUC is much better—in terms of efficiency, cost, and patient care—than reliance on traditional prior authorization
- AUC ensures quality—right exam for the patient, at the right time, and the right cost
- AUC is more cost-effective and less burdensome—a greater value—for patients, clinicians, and payors
AUC Help

AUC Resources


- Professional Societies

- RadNet
  - [AskAboutAUC@RadNet.com](mailto:AskAboutAUC@RadNet.com)
  - Educational materials
    - “What to Know”
    - “FAQs”
Key Takeaways:

• “Educational and operations testing period” goes into effect on January 1, 2020
• Participation is encouraged; no claims will be denied for missing or inaccurate AUC information
• G-codes + modifiers report required AUC consultation
• Easy; instantaneous feedback
• Better patient care; no loss of autonomy
Understanding Appropriate Use Criteria for CY 2020

Question & Answer Session
Understanding Appropriate Use Criteria for CY 2020

Thank you!