The road to **APPROPRIATE USE CRITERIA** *(AUC) as of the November 2017 PFS Final Rule*

**July 2018**
Voluntary period begins for early adopters to start reporting AUC information.

**January 2020**
Educational testing period begins, where ordering providers must consult AUC but no claims will be denied for improper AUC information.

**January 2021**
CMS will begin to deny/audit claims with incorrect AUC information.

---

**AUC** = The proper policy name and the sets of criteria

**CDS** = The unofficial policy name and the interface used to access the sets of criteria

---

**Appropriate Use Criteria**
The proper name for the overall policy. It also refers to the various sets of criteria developed by provider-led entities that will assist professionals when ordering images.

**Provider-led Entities**
The medical specialty societies or organizations comprised primarily of providers that create and maintain the various appropriate use criteria.

**CDS Mechanisms**
The software or module that ordering professionals must consult AUC through before ordering an applicable advanced diagnostic imaging service.

---

**Provider-Led Entities maintain the Appropriate Use Criteria, which is accessed through the Clinical Decision Support Mechanisms.**

---

**Things to Consider**

**Medicare Patients**
Applies to designated outpatient advanced imaging exams for Medicare patients.

**Emergent Imaging**
To avoid unnecessary delays in care, emergent imaging will be exempt from the policy.

**Reporting Requirements**
All applicable imaging claims will need the following AUC data elements:
- CDSM used
- Whether the exam adhered, did not adhere, or was not applicable to the AUC
- NPI of ordering professional

**Coming Soon**
CMS is developing a "unique consultation identifier" with stakeholders that will allow furnishing professionals to communicate the required AUC data elements to CMS.

---

**Qualified Provider-Led Entities**
- 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

* as of June 2017

---

**Qualified CDS Mechanisms**
- AIM Specialty Health ProviderPortal®
- Applied Pathways CURION™ Platform
- Cranberry Peak ezCDS
- eviCore healthcare's Clinical Decision Support Mechanism
- Medicalis Clinical Decision Support Mechanism
- National Decision Support Company CareSelect™
- National Imaging Associates RadMD
- Sage Health Management Solutions Inc. RadWise®
- Test Appropriate CDSM

* as of Nov. 2017

---

**CDS Mechanisms with Preliminary Qualification**
- Cerner CDS mechanism
- Evinance Decision Support
- Flying Aces Speed of Care Decision Support
- LogiNetz Decision Engines
- MedCurrent OrderWise™
- Reliant Medical Group CDSM
- Stanson Health’s CDSM

* as of Nov. 2017

---

**Copyright © 2017 by AHRA: The Association for Medical Imaging Management**