

AHRA CDSM/AUC Stakeholder Update

In February, 2018, AHRA brought together stakeholder groups with an interest or authority over how information will be generated by the Clinical Decision Support Mechanisms, coded and transmitted through the imaging operational system (i.e., ordering professional to imaging department to radiologist), and the placement of the CDSM code on the Medicare claim (both technical and professional).

Sheila M. Sferrella, Chair of the AHRA's Regulatory Affairs Committee, facilitated this historic gathering and said, "AHRA was pleased to bring this diverse group of stakeholders together for this important conversation. As we were looking at the various comments submitted in response to the initial CMS proposed Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC) guidelines for implementing the AUC policy, it became quite clear that each of the various stakeholders were developing ideas and proposals that met their unique needs, but these often conflicted with the needs of other downstream stakeholders."

Members of this workgroup include representatives from AHRA, CMS, American College of Radiology (ACR), X12, National Uniform Billing Committee (NUBC), National Uniform Claim Committee (NUCC), e-Ordering Coalition, as well as vendors specializing in the areas of CDSM, electronic health records, and radiology billing. It is believed to be the first time such stakeholders have been brought together in one place for this type of dialogue.

Subsequent to this face to face meeting, at the request of CMS, the regulatory affairs committee created a document containing information addressing several operational challenges of AUC/CDS facing end-users based on our research and member's experience. Our efforts and the efforts of our industry partners will be ongoing, diligent and collaborative. AHRA is proud to continue our work with this dynamic group of people for the betterment of our industry. We will continue to provide updates on our Advocacy page when milestones occur.