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COA Report

California Orthopaedic Association

July 16, 2021



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TOP NEWS

Important Medicare Information

New CMS Appropriate Use Criteria Mandate for CDSM Will Impact Medicare Reimbursement

Physicians Practice

Effective January 1, 2022, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will be mandating that the physician ordering advanced diagnostic imaging tests – MRIs, CTs, Nuclear Medicine, and Pet Scans, etc. will be required to consult Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC) developed by a CMS-approved entity who has developed a, "Clinical Decision Support Mechanism" (CDSM) before ordering the imaging test. A CDSM is an interactive, electronic tool for use by clinicians that communicates AUC information to the user and assists them in making the most appropriate treatment decision for a patient's specific clinical condition during the patient's workup. The CDSM will provide the ordering professional with a determination of whether that order adheres to AUC, does not adhere to AUC, or if there is no AUC applicable (for example, no AUC is available to address the patient's clinical condition) in the CDSM consulted. When you consult the CDSM, you will be given a certificate which you will attach to your billing. As of January 1, 2023, without this certificate, claims for these tests will not be paid – not the professional or technical component of rendering the service. The imaging center, recognizing that they won't get paid for the test without the certificate, likely will refuse to even perform the test.

Initially, CMS is focusing on the following MSK priority clinical areas - Hip Pain, Low Back Pain, Shoulder Pain, and Cervical or Neck Pain, although all ordering physicians will need to check the CDSM for all advanced diagnostic imaging ordered for Medicare patients in order to be reimbursed for the test. Appropriately trained staff can check the CDSM for the ordering physician.

It is important to note that you must consult the CDSM, but if you disagree with the AUC, you can still order the test. You must append the appropriate modifier to indicate that you consulted the guidelines and the decision you made in ordering the test. There are a few exceptions for emergency situations which likely will not greatly affect orthopaedic surgeons.

Here are the modifiers:

- MA - 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
- MB - Ordering professional is not required to consult a clinical decision support mechanism due to the significant hardship exception of insufficient internet access

- MC - 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
- MD - Ordering professional is not required to consult a clinical decision support mechanism due to the significant hardship exception of extreme and uncontrollable circumstances
- ME - The order for this service adheres to the appropriate use criteria in the clinical decision support mechanism consulted by the ordering professional
- MF - 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
- MG - The order for this service does not have appropriate use criteria in the clinical decision support mechanism consulted by the ordering professional
- MH - Unknown if ordering professional consulted a clinical decision support mechanism for this service, related information was not provided to the furnishing professional or provider
- QQ - 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)

When billing the test, you must also indicate which CDSM you consulted. They are numbered G1000-G1011. Some offer [this as a free service](#).

Tye Ouzounian, M.D. presented a webinar on Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC) for Advanced Diagnostic Imaging at COA's 2020 Annual Meeting discussing this new mandate. For more information, [access his presentation](#).

For yet more information, [here is a link to a CMS Information Sheet](#).

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PRODUCT SHOWCASE



Orthopedic Surgeon for busy practice

Great opportunity for an orthopedic surgeon in a busy practice with excellent compensation. Primarily WC & PI practice with some private insurance patients.

Will need to work in multiple modern clinics in Los Angeles & Orange Counties & Inland Empire.

No nights or weekends
No hospital call
Fellowship not required

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Fraud Alert — Health Care Providers

Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA)

The Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) has learned of an attempted scam aimed at licensees of DCA's boards and bureaus this includes the Medical Board of California. In the scheme, an individual falsely identifying themselves as an employee of the Acupuncture Board has contacted licensees and attempted to gather personal information.

If you receive a call from an individual claiming to be an employee of the Acupuncture Board (or any other DCA board or bureau) and they attempt to gather personal information, please consider the following:

- If you receive a call, simply take down the caller's information (including name, title, phone number and email address), let them know you will follow-up directly with the department/board/bureau, and end the call. You may also consider ending the call without explanation if it appears suspicious or to be a scam.
- Contact the board or bureau responsible for issuing your license. Contact information for all DCA boards and bureaus can be found via this webpage: https://www.dca.ca.gov/about_us/entities.shtml
- If you don't know who to contact at DCA, call the Consumer Information Center at (800) 952-5210 for assistance and to get directed to the appropriate entity.

- NEVER disclose any personal information, i.e. social security numbers, date of births, or credit/debit card numbers, without first taking steps to verify that the person requesting the information has a legitimate need for it.

Be aware that DCA staff will never ask for credit/debit card numbers or information over the phone.

Job Opportunity — Orthopedic Surgeon Shoulder and Elbow Reconstruction

COA
Ventura Orthopedics is recruiting a shoulder reconstruction surgeon to start in 2021-22. We are a 20-physician orthopedic group with specialists in spine, pediatrics, shoulder, hand, sports, pain management, total joints and foot and ankle and are located in Ventura County, California, immediately north of Los Angeles County.

We have 5 clinic locations, 6 physical and hand therapy locations, and 3 high field MRI units (one wide bore). We have a tradition of leadership and service in our communities and our state and are a vertically integrated provider of musculoskeletal care with partnership track potential.

If you are interested, please contact Erinn Barnwell 805-641-6415 hr@venturaortho.com

News from the ABOS — Recertification Exams

ABOS
The American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery (ABOS) will be changing the schedule for ABOS Computer-Based Recertification Examinations. The 10 different Practice-Profiled and Combined Recertification Examinations have been offered every year but starting in 2023 will be offered every other year.

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New Trend in Emergency Room Care

Becker's Hospital Review
New Hyde Park, N.Y.-based Northwell Health launched its emergency room on-demand program, which allows patients to access physicians in the middle of the night. The virtual emergency department will operate from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. every night. The program gives access to a board-certified emergency medicine physician when physician offices and urgent care clinics have closed their doors.

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CMS Pitches Physician Payment Rule for 2022: 9 Things To Know

Becker's Hospital Review
CMS released its annual proposed changes to the Physician Fee Schedule for 2022, which expands certain Medicare telehealth provisions and updates the payment rate for physician services. Here are nine things to know about the proposed rule.

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Biden Zeros in on Healthcare Competition in Executive Order: 10 Notes

Becker's Hospital Review
President Joe Biden signed an executive order July 9 that addresses competition among hospitals, health insurers, prescription drugmakers and hearing aid manufacturers. While goals of the 72-initiative executive order stretch across economic sectors, healthcare is one of the main markets in which the president wants to discourage consolidation. Here are 10 things to know.

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COA Report

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