

# CLINICAL DECISION SUPPORT



## RIGHT EXAM FOR THE RIGHT PATIENT

### WHAT ARE THE CHANGES?

The Protecting Access to Medicare Act (PAMA) requires that physicians ordering advanced imaging exams consult Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC) through a qualified Clinical Decision Support Mechanism (qCDSM).

January 1, 2020 marks the formal start of the program, where healthcare providers must consult qualified CDSM when ordering advanced imaging tests. Under the program, consultations must occur across all advanced imaging and evidence of consultation must be included on the claim.

The consultation requirement applies to all Medicare Part B Advanced Diagnostic Imaging Services (CT, MR, NM, PET) across multiple care settings including outpatient and emergency departments.

### SOLUTION PROVIDED

Providers can consult CDS through a variety of resources. Sentara has partnered with National Decision Support Company, which offers a free web-based portal (CareSelect Imaging — Open Access), giving your practice access to the tools at no cost. Registration is simple and the tool is easy to use. To learn more, visit [NationalDecisionSupport.com](https://NationalDecisionSupport.com).

Questions? Visit [sentara.com/CDS](https://sentara.com/CDS)

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## WHAT IS THE TIMELINE?

January 1, 2020 marks the formal start of the program. From this date forward, healthcare providers must consult a qualified Clinical Decision Support Mechanism (qCDSM) when ordering advanced imaging tests furnished under Medicare Part B. Under the program, consultations must occur across all advanced imaging, and evidence of consultation must be included on all claims.

## WHERE ARE WE TODAY?

The program starts with a one-year “Educational and Operations Testing Period”. During this period, AUC consultation must occur across all advanced imaging, and evidence of consultation must be included on the claim. Incorrectly formed evidence will not result in payment being withheld.

## HOW WILL THIS IMPACT WORKFLOW?

Providers can consult Clinical Decision Support (CDS) through a variety of resources. Your EMR vendor may integrate with a qCDSM. Sentara has partnered with National Decision Support Company, which offers a free web-based portal (CareSelect Imaging — Open Access), giving your practice access to the tools at no cost. Registration is simple and the tool is easy to use. To learn more, visit [NationalDecisionSupport.com](https://www.nationaldecisionsupport.com).



Reduce unnecessary exposure to radiation



Correct exam for the indication



Correct exam is ordered the first time



Exams are supported by evidence based practice

## PRACTICAL TAKE-A-WAYS

- Ordering provider must document AUC consultation **at the time** the test is ordered.
- The CDS mechanism will time/date stamp the AUC Consultation when it generates the “Unique Decision Support Number” for a particular test.
- CMS mandate will not, at least initially, result in hard denials of reimbursement for “inappropriate”/ “rarely appropriate” studies.
- CMS will immediately begin collecting data on referring physician’s patterns of adherence to AUC.
- Starting in 2020, CMS must use this data to identify up to 5% of physicians as being “outliers” in adherence to AUC.

<https://www.cms.gov>  
<https://nationaldecisionsupport.com/pama/>

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