



FACT SHEET: 2009 Physician Group Incentive Program Radiology Procedures Utilization Updated for 2009

Initiative Overview

The purpose of the radiology management initiative is to improve the quality and affordability of health care by promoting appropriate use of diagnostic imaging services, reducing redundancy of services, and preventing patients from unnecessary exposure to radiation.

Objectives

- Identify, analyze, and track unexplained variation in rates of imaging services among physicians and Physician Organizations (POs)
- Address unexplained variation in imaging practice to ensure compliance with evidence-based guidelines and community standards of practice such as those developed by peer comparison
- Control the increasing cost of diagnostic imaging services

Incentive Design

Incentive payments are based on participation and performance improvement, with an increased focus on performance over time.

Participation is defined as:

- Compliance with AIM pre-authorization process for high tech radiology
- Use of AIM website for pre-authorization of high tech radiology
- Completion of progress report outlining successes and challenges in working with radiology initiative

Performance improvement is evaluated by:

- Assessing PO's standard cost PMPM (per member per month) for radiology against an established benchmark
- Ability of PO to maintain standard cost PMPM at or above benchmark and for improvement toward benchmark

Initiative Strategies

- Sharing actionable radiology utilization data and dashboard reports with physicians
- Profiling physicians – providing feedback to physicians about imaging ordering patterns
- Identifying physician outliers and determining reason for variation
- Identifying clinical bundle of diagnostic imaging services (e.g. Cardiology and Spine) for focused intervention
- Sharing best practices in managing diagnostic imaging use
- Increase use of American Imaging Management (AIM) website to pre-authorize high-tech imaging services in the office and outpatient hospital locations

Metrics

- Usage per 1000 members for overall radiology utilization
- Standard cost PMPM (per member per month) for overall utilization
- Assessing Physician Organization's standard cost PMPM for radiology against an established benchmark
- Ability of Physician Organization to maintain standard cost PMPM at or above benchmark and for improvement toward benchmark

Results

TBD