

# Meet the PAMA Mandate Using OrderWise



Starting January 1, 2020, providers are expected to participate in an educational and operations testing period under the Medicare Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC) Program. At the end of this period, Medicare reimbursement for advanced outpatient imaging procedures (CT, MR, NM, PET) will be at risk if providers do not meet the requirements of the AUC Program initially set forth in the Protecting Access to Medicare Act (PAMA, 2014).

## REQUIREMENTS OF THE AUC PROGRAM

Ordering professionals must consult Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC) for advanced outpatient imaging (CT, MR, NM, PET) orders	Ordering professionals must access AUCs through a qualified Clinical Decision Support Mechanism (qCDSM)	Only AUCs from qualified Provider-Led Entities (qPLE) may be used under this program	Claims by furnishing professionals must specify AUC consultation information	Ordering professionals identified as outliers will be required to obtain prior authorization
---	---	--	--	--

## WHAT ARE APPROPRIATE USE CRITERIA (AUC)?

"AUC are a set of individual criteria that present information in a manner that links a specific clinical condition or presentation, one or more services, and an assessment of the appropriateness of the service(s). Evidence-based AUC for imaging can assist clinicians in selecting the imaging study that is most likely to improve health outcomes for patients based on their individual context."

— Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, MPFS CY 2017

## Eight Priority Clinical Areas

Although all ordering professionals must consult CDS for advanced diagnostic imaging, applicable to Medicare Part B outpatients, CMS has identified eight priority clinical areas that may be used for reporting purposes starting January 1, 2020.

The eight clinical areas are:

- Coronary Artery Disease (suspected or diagnosed)
- Suspected Pulmonary Embolism
- Headache (traumatic or non-traumatic)
- Hip Pain
- Low Back Pain
- Shoulder Pain (to include suspected rotator cuff injury)
- Cancer of the Lung (primary or metastatic, suspected or diagnosed)
- Cervical or Neck Pain





## WHO CAN PROVIDE APPROVED AUC?

Qualified Provider-Led Entities (qPLE) are approved to “develop, modify or endorse” appropriate use criteria. To date the following 20 qPLEs have been approved through an annual application process. Newly approved qPLEs are announced in June of every year.

- American College of Cardiology Foundation
- American College of Radiology
- Banner University Medical Group-Tucson University of Arizona
- CDI Quality Institute
- Cedars-Sinai Health System
- High Value Practice Academic Alliance\*
- 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 Pennsylvania Health System\*
- University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center\*
- University of Utah Health
- University of Washington School of Medicine
- Virginia Mason Medical Center
- Weill Cornell Medicine Physicians Organization

\* Indicates newly qualified PLEs as of June 30, 2018

## WHERE DOES ORDERWISE® FIT IN THE PICTURE?

Orderise® is a qualified Clinical Decision Support Mechanism (CDSM). 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.”

- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, MPFS CY 2017

## IMPORTANT DATES

### January 2018

MIPS credits granted for consulting CDS as a clinical proactive improvement activity

### June 2019

New CDSM and PLE qualifications

### January 2021

Reimbursement denials begin for furnishing providers that do not include required information on claims

### November 2018

MPFS CY 2019 final rule includes further clarification on elements of the AUC Program

### January 2020

- Educational and operations testing period begins
- Ordering professionals must consult AUC through qualified CDSM
- Furnishing professionals must document consultation on claims

Additional information about the AUC Program can be found on the CMS website:

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Appropriate-Use-Criteria-Program/index.html>