



# Radiology Trends

## Medical Billing and Management Services

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### Did You Know?

HHS Secretary, Kathleen Sebelius and U.S. Associate Attorney General, Thomas J. Perrelli announced that over \$4 Billion dollars was recovered in FY 2010 in the government's healthcare fraud and abuse efforts.

According to a Moran Company study, the volume of advanced imaging studies performed on Medicare patients decreased in 2009 for the first time in eleven years. The study also found a decrease in screening mammography and DXA scans in 2009 as well.

### CMS Makes Awards Clinical Decision-Support Demo Project

CMS announced the selection of four hospitals chosen to participate in it's 24-month, \$10 million project to evaluate the use of clinical decision support for ordering diagnostic imaging studies. Brigham and Women's Hospital of Boston, Henry Ford Health System of Detroit, Maine Medical Center-Physician Hospital Organization of Portland and University of Wisconsin-Madison have all been selected to test clinical decision soft-

ware for the ordering of 11 imaging studies in CT, MRI, and NM (including PET) modalities. National Imaging Associates (NIA) of Avon, CT, a radiology benefits management firm, was also chosen to participate in the project.

Brigham and Women's Hospital and Henry Ford Health System already use commercial clinical decision software.

The study is designed to evaluate six months of data without clinical de-

cision support followed by 18-months with it. The participating organizations will work to recruit practices to install clinical decision support and would be responsible for collecting and transmitting data to CMS as well as distributing payments to practices for reporting data.

A starting date for the demonstration project has yet to be announced.

### Healthcare Reform Constitutionality Debated

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, better known as healthcare reform, was ruled as unconstitutional by U.S. District Court Judge, Roger Vinson of Pensacola,

Florida. In his 78-page ruling, Vinson concluded that since the mandate that all Americans purchase health insurance was unconstitutional, and was an integral part of

the plan, the entire plan was unconstitutional. Vinson recently issued a stay of his opinion pending the outcome of appeals.

# In The News

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### Coding and Compliance Tips by Lori Shore

Billing for PET or PET/CT studies provided to Medicare patients for cancers "covered with evidence development" on the LCD/NCD can be a matter of planning and timing. PET and PET/CT may be reimbursed if the facility is registered through the National Oncology PET Registry (NOPR). Referring physicians must register the patient in the NOPR system for this clinical study and report results for studies that qualify for "coverage with evidence development" (CED).

PET studies fall into

two categories of coverage, initial and subsequent treatment strategies. Just because a study is covered for one category does not necessarily mean that it is covered for both. For example, stomach cancer is a covered diagnosis for initial treatment strategy but requires NOPR registration for subsequent treatment strategies.

A claim cannot be submitted for a NOPR claim until the PET facility is notified that both Pre and Post PET data has been received and approved. It is important

that we know both the procedure and diagnosis code under which the patient is registered.

Claims covered under the NOPR program must be submitted with the modifier Q0 in addition to either modifier PI or PS indicating if the study is an initial or subsequent study. Modifier PI can only be reported once per cancer diagnosis.

To learn more about the NOPR program go to [www.cancerPETregistry.org](http://www.cancerPETregistry.org).

### FDA Approves Apps for iPad and iPhone

The Mobile MIM app has been approved by the FDA for use on Apple iPad and iPhones. The app is not intended to replace a full workstation but is approved for viewing and diagnosing CT, MR and NM (including PET) images when a workstation is not accessible.

### New Jersey to Face Doctor Shortage

A 2009 report of the New Jersey Council of Teaching Hospitals is projecting a shortage of 2,800 physicians in the state by 2020. The numbers were based on 2009 exit surveys of New Jersey medical school residents where only 32% responded that they planned to practice in the state. Despite a new medical school at Rowan University, no new residency positions are opening at teaching hospitals. New Jersey has the lowest medical assistance reimbursements in the country, has high taxes and has not yet passed malpractice reform. These issues were all cited as disincentives to attracting new physicians.

Look for us at the RBMA  
Summit in New Orleans  
June 5-8, 2011.

