



DukeHealth

Did You Know?

APPROPRIATE USE CRITERIA FOR ADVANCED IMAGING

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC)?

The *Protecting Access to Medicare Act* (PAMA) requires that physicians ordering advanced imaging exams (PET, MRI, CT, and Nuclear Medicine) consult AUC through a qualified Clinical Decision Support Mechanism (CDSM).

What does appropriate use legislation mean for you?

Starting January 1, 2023, referring providers of advanced imaging studies will be required to show they have consulted appropriate use criteria through a qualified CDSM. This requirement applies in all outpatient and emergency imaging locations and was imposed as an alternative to requiring prior authorization for these services.

How do I access Appropriate Use Criteria?

Providers placing advanced imaging orders directly in Duke Maestro Care or Duke MedLink will automatically access AUC with no interruption in workflow. **No additional action is necessary if you are placing advanced imaging orders using either Duke EHR system.**

Providers currently placing paper/fax referrals for advanced imaging are encouraged to sign up for Duke MedLink prior to January 1, 2023, which will help ensure seamless access to our AUC system. You can find out more at physicians.dukehealth.org/get-duke-medlink-account.

Duke imaging sites will continue to accept paper/fax advanced imaging referrals after January 1, 2023, but providers will need to separately consult one of the qualified CDSMs that can be found at:

cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Appropriate-Use-Criteria-Program/CDSM

Several of these CDSMs are free and can be accessed after the user has established an account.

What AUC information will I need to provide on paper/fax advanced imaging referral forms?

Each qualified CDSM will provide the necessary AUC information that will be required for all advanced imaging referrals as of January 1, 2023, which includes:

- Decision support number or session ID
- Decision support Score
- Decision support software (CDMS) vendor name
- Decision support adherence information

What if I have questions about Duke MedLink or the upcoming appropriate use requirements?

Please contact the Duke Radiology Physician Liaison group at radiologyphysicianliaison@duke.edu or at (919) 613-1129.

You can also find additional AUC information at:

cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Appropriate-Use-Criteria-Program/index