

# Understanding Changes to Clinical Decision Support:

Your quick guide to meeting  
the new requirements by 2021



MWHC

**Medical Imaging**

In partnership with

**Radiologic Associates of Fredericksburg**

**C**linical Decision Support (CDS) software has long been a part of the medical community, providing vital tools to assist physicians and their teams in making informative, swift decisions. From diagnostic support to patient data reports, CDS has aided physicians in all specialties.

## Overview of New Guidelines

Mandated changes have been made to Clinical Decision Support (CDS) for implementation in 2020 and complete compliance by January 1, 2021. For all Medicare Part B advanced diagnostic imaging services, ordering physicians and clinical technicians will be required to consult Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC) through a qualified Clinical Decision Support Mechanism (CDSM) approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Ed Swager, CEO of Radiologic Associates of Fredericksburg, adds that the new rule will not prevent a provider from ordering tests, even if the applicability or ranking of the test is deemed low.

“The ordering provider, in theory, would order high-end imaging like they always do,” Swager said. “Under the new rule, the provider would let the CDS software know the patient’s clinical condition and let the software rate the appropriateness of the study based on the clinical condition by giving the test a ranking of high to low. Based on the proposed rules, in time, providers ordering studies scoring with low relevance would be required to obtain preauthorization from Medicare.”

## Ensuring Full Compliance through Electronic Health Records

The first step toward compliance is to identify the electronic health record (EHR) your practice uses. Your software may already have modules in place that offer a qualified CDSM or your EHR may have a plan in place to be ready by 2021.

Software platforms like EPIC are already connected to National Decision Support Company CareSelect™. Within those modules, you'll simply identify the appropriate imaging that suits your patient's needs as you click through the criteria. A code is then generated that qualifies your patient's claim for insurance coverage.

If you are not using CDS-compliant software, Medical Imaging of Fredericksburg can assist you by ensuring that the transition is seamless. Updates have been made through a collaboration with National Decision Support (NDS), and many physicians like yourself have already become fully compliant. We seek to provide you with the resources you need during this learning and implementation phase. If you do not have the software, contact our team for help identifying the ideal web-based tool for your practice.



MWHC

**Medical Imaging**

In partnership with

**Radiologic Associates of Fredericksburg**

## *Details on the Implementation Timeline*

The “Educational and Operations Testing Period” formally began on January 1, 2020. The goal of this testing period is to give healthcare providers time to implement qualified AUC consultation software in their practice. By January 1, 2021, compliance is mandatory. A consultation with a CDSM must be appended to each claim when ordering any CT, MR, NM, or PET studies.

## **Key Benefits Beyond the Mandate**

Compliance with the changes to CDS offers key benefits beyond meeting a Federal mandate. It aims to reduce regulatory burdens and assist physicians in selecting the imaging test that would best improve health outcomes for patients, based on their unique needs. The mandate also looks to aid furnishing providers, such as Radiologists, by providing consultation information and ensuring that patients are getting appropriate imaging.

Physicians have already reported improvements in care coordination, such as a reduction of back-and-forth communication when ordering images or making changes. While streamlining pre-authorization, you’ll provide your patients with the best value-based care, aligning their needs with the highest quality imaging service.



MWHC

**Medical Imaging**

In partnership with  
Radiologic Associates of Fredericksburg

## *Medical Imaging of Fredericksburg Can Help*

At Medical Imaging of Fredericksburg, we want to ensure that you have the tools you need. Our goal is to provide assistance in meeting the new requirements during the learning phase. We look forward to continuing to provide you and your patients access to care without risking any gap in service.

---

For more information on the new changes to CDS, visit [www.cms.gov](http://www.cms.gov) or call our Physician's Concierge at **855-723-5463**.