

Special Bulletin

For professional and facility providers

February 27, 2023

New RP-075: Appropriate Use Criteria for Advanced Diagnostic Imaging

Highmark has created Reimbursement Policy 075 (RP-075) to provide direction to practitioners on how to successfully increase the rate of advanced diagnostic imaging services based on Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC). [RP-075: Appropriate Use Criteria for Advanced Diagnostic Imaging](#) will be effective **May 29, 2023**.

Background

The AUC program was established as part of the Protecting Access to Medicare Act (PAMA) of 2014. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has been rolling out requirements for the AUC program in stages, with the final implementation expected to be by year's end.

Evidence-based AUC for imaging can assist providers in selecting the imaging service that is most likely to improve health outcomes for patients based on their individual clinical presentation.

Examples of advanced imaging services covered by the AUC program include computed tomography (CT); positron emission tomography (PET); nuclear medicine, and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

Who Is Affected

This program impacts the following:

- All physicians and practitioners who order advanced diagnostic imaging services
- Practitioners and facilities that provide advanced diagnostic imaging services in a physician's office
- Hospital outpatient departments — including emergency departments, ambulatory surgical centers, or independent diagnostic testing facilities (IDTFs) — whose claims are paid pursuant to the physician fee schedule, hospital outpatient prospective payment system, or ambulatory surgical center payment system.

Providers are highly encouraged to begin adopting and utilizing the guidelines outlined in this policy effective May 29, 2023, as they will become mandatory at some point in the future **after CMS determines the guidelines that must be followed**.

To view [RP-075](#), which goes in effect on **May 29, 2023**, go to the **Provider Resource Center**. Select **CLAIMS, PAYMENT & REIMBURSEMENT** and click **Reimbursement Policy**.

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