

THE HCI SPOTLIGHT



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LIKE US ON FACEBOOK AND JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

Dear Colleague -

In the midst of the holiday season we all wonder what 'gifts' await us from our friends in Washington D. C. It's easy to have one's angst grow with the continued uncertainty that is prevalent today. The key is to be aware of the situation, make sure our positions are known to those who have a voice...and then focus and work on that which we can control; our work and attitude. Keeping our nose to the grindstone is a familiar phrase we've all probably heard many times over. In times like these it might be the best advice we can listen to. Patients still need care and we have the ability to deliver. Focusing on quality and convenience will pay off not only for the patients but for each practice that provides an exemplary level of care. When times get tough, opportunities are available for those who are positive and have their eyes focused.

This month's newsletter discusses the decrease in imaging and has some helpful advice on how to handle (and possibly reverse) the decline. One of the more interesting articles discusses how patients view the testing their physician orders for them. The article points out the need to communicate why the test is important and determine if there are any questions that need to be answered. Communication could be the key to eliminating 'no shows' from our schedules. We are also including articles regarding advances in molecular breast imaging. I am excited about the improvements that will result in better patient care. HCI expects to expand our presence in this market in the new year.

As I close, I want to wish everyone a Happy Holiday season and Best Wishes for the New Year. We appreciate you being part of the HCI family and want you to remember that HCI will be here to support you through out 2012...and beyond!

Best regards,



2012: Health industry's informatics and social media usage to boom

Health organizations will considerably invest in health informatics, forming data-sharing partnerships with organizations that have mutual interests in new uses of information.

<http://www.dotmed.com/news/story/17495>

Study shows advanced imaging growth coming to an end

The rapid rise in the early 2000s of utilization of advanced imaging modalities such as CT, MRI, and nuclear medicine has come to an end. Advanced imaging is just one part of a complex and expensive healthcare system, and these imaging services are simply no longer growing at a rapid pace.

http://www.auntminnie.com/index.aspx?sec=rca&sub=rsna_2011&pag=dis&itemID=97514&wf=1236

Supercommittee fails to reach deficit-reduction agreement

After nearly three months of negotiations, the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction, also known as the supercommittee, failed to reach an agreement on the deficit-reduction proposal leaving in place a 27 percent cut in Medicare physician payments that will take effect on January 1, 2012.

<http://snm.org/index.cfm?PageID=11212>

How to Deal with Medicare Imaging Cuts

Whenever there is anticipated change to your bottom line, it is good for the practice leaders to ask the business office for a "damage report." In other words, find out what the real facts are regarding the impact might have been for the last fiscal year. You don't have to do this by a comprehensive audit of all of your charges; You can estimate. Just choose a sampling.

<http://www.diagnosticimaging.com/radblog/display/article/113619/1990432>

MITA says super committee's proposed imaging cuts threaten technology, patients

In the run up to the Nov. 23 deficit reduction deadline, the Medical Imaging & Technology Alliance, a lobby for medical imaging equipment manufactures, is concerned about repercussions from the congressional "super committee's" proposed medical imaging cuts.

<http://www.dotmed.com/news/story/17450/>

Siemens survey explores attitudes about imaging

Consumers were most aware of medical x-rays (96%).

They were least familiar with nuclear heart scan technology, with just over one-third (39%).

<http://www.auntminnie.com/index.aspx?sec=sup&sub=cto&pag=dis&itemID=97558&wf=1236>

Nuclear medicine shows promise for dense breast tissue

Nuclear medicine modalities show promise for breast cancer screening and diagnosis in women with dense breast tissue. Nuclear breast imaging refers to everything from positron emission mammography (PEM) to breast-specific gamma imaging (BSGI) to molecular breast imaging (MBI).

http://www.auntminnie.com/index.aspx?sec=rca&sub=rsna_2011&pag=dis&itemID=97494&wf=1236

New imaging tools address challenges of dense breast tissue

Some two-thirds of premenopausal women and one-quarter of those who are postmenopausal have dense breast tissue. In addition to confounding conventional x-ray-based mammography, women with dense breasts have also been found to have a higher risk of breast cancer.

<http://www.auntminnie.com/index.aspx?d=1&sec=spt&sub=mbi&pag=dis&itemID=91901>

U.S. Still Vulnerable to Isotope Shortage

We've gone back to what our supply has historically been of Mo-99, and there hasn't really been as big of a disruption as we initially expected. Nevertheless, we should not be complacent. There is an extended outage coming for the reactor in Canada in 2012.

http://www.rsna.org/Publications/rsnanews/October-November-2011/isotope_feature.cfm

High-pitch coronary CTA limited to slower heart rate

Contrary to some previous studies, high-pitch, dual-source coronary CT angiography (CCTA) scans should be reserved for patients with the slowest heart rates.

<http://www.auntminnie.com/index.aspx?d=1&sec=sup&sub=cto&pag=dis&itemID=97420>

Incident Stroke and Mortality Associated With New Onset Atrial Fibrillation in Patients Hospitalized With Severe Sepsis

New-onset atrial fibrillation (AF) has been reported in 6% to 20% of patients with severe sepsis. Chronic AF is a known risk factor for stroke and death, but the clinical significance of new-onset AF in the setting of severe sepsis is uncertain.

<http://jama.ama-assn.org/content/306/20/2248.short>

Consumers Will Pay Half as much for Generic Version of Lipitor

In November, the drug's patent expires, opening the market for cheaper, generic versions of Lipitor, which should lower costs for consumers by about 50 percent.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/lipitor-generic-consumers-expect/story?id=15051397#.TtYOLHG2M0w.email>

Passive Smoking's Aggressive Side

Also known as secondhand smoke or environmental tobacco smoke, passive smoking has been known for quite some time to be associated with a laundry list of serious health effects. A new study has just uncovered one more risk: a second heart attack or serious heart event within a month after hospitalization for acute coronary syndrome.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/CancerPreventionAndTreatment/story?id=2950479&page=1#.TtTrrWMk6so>

Whistleblower feted in NY hospital case

Dr. Colin Clarke reported that the hospital had operated a nuclear medicine program for three years without the proper accreditation. The report was filed in 2010. The hospital shut down the program as a result of the investigation.

http://online.wsj.com/article_email/APa6c55b5763d14e9689abebc4286b3985-kEyUDbHMTYxYzA1MTUwYjE1Wj.html?mod=wsj_share_email

ASNC 6 free CME's

Earn valuable continuing medical education credit while increasing your knowledge of the latest developments in the field of nuclear cardiology. Each issue of the Journal of Nuclear Cardiology now features an article designated for continuing education credit for physicians and technologists.

http://www.asnc.org/section_413.cfm

To remove your name from our mailing list or if you have questions or comments email us at info@heartcareimaging.com or call 561-746-6125