

Dear Colleague –

Happy 'Heart' Month!

It's been a tough winter so far but the warmer weather is just around the corner. It's also been a rough time in our industry but, like the weather, better times are just ahead. Along those lines I have included articles for those of you who thought you were the only ones seeing fewer patients.

The articles discuss the lower number of studies being done across the nation. There are many reasons including; high unemployment that has resulted in loss of insurance coverage, higher deductible insurance policies causing patients to hold off on needed tests, insurance providers refusing needed tests and our adoption and adherence to appropriateness criteria. At HCI we monitor our clients activity and have noticed, with the economy picking up, our practices are starting to see more patients. While we are adamantly against overuse of imaging, we are a proponent for appropriate use with early detection and treatment of all disease. Following our society's guidelines will help insure patients get the tests they need when they need them.

Also in this month's newsletter is information on the effort to shore up the isotope supply. I am including interesting articles you might want to share with your patients regarding ways to improve their health through diet, exercise and proper rest. Finally, I will end with some good news. We recently sent out an email regarding CMS finally paying the differential on the nuclear studies done in early 2010. See, I told you, better times are just ahead!

Best regards,



Robert J. Stille
President
Heart Care Imaging, INC.

CMS selects appropriate use demonstration participants

http://www.cardiovascularbusiness.com/index.php?option=com_articles&view=article&id=26137:cms-selects-appropriate-use-demonstration-participants&division=cvb

NNSA supports Mo-99 production bill

<http://www.auntminnie.com/index.asp?Sec=news&Sub=thd&pag=dis&ItemId=94120&wf=1236&d=1>

Report Confirms That Imaging's Torrid Growth Rate is Slowing

<http://www.auntminnie.com/index.aspx?d=1&sec=sup&sub=imc&pag=dis&ItemID=94167&wf=1236>

ASRT: RT Enrollment Drops for Third Year

<http://www.auntminnie.com/index.aspx?Sec=sup&Sub=mol&Pag=dis&ItemId=93924&wf=1236>

New Senate Bill Advocates for domestic isotope production

http://www.molecularimaging.net/index.php?option=com_articles&view=article&id=26210:new-senate-bill-advocates-for-domestic-isotope-production&division=mii

Red and Blue Berries and Vegetables May Prevent Heart Hypertension

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/735998?src=emailthis>

Omega 3's—more evidence for their benefit

http://insciences.org/article.php?article_id=9872&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+insciences%2Farticles+%28Insciencess+Newsletter%29

Diet soda and heart, stroke risk: a link doesn't prove cause and effect

<http://www.latimes.com/health/boostershots/lat-heb-dietsodastrokheartattack20110209.0.4324389.story>

Warwick scientists say lack of sleep 'bad for health'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-coventry-warwickshire-12398114>