

## THE HCI SPOTLIGHT

Dear Colleague -

Reimbursement news for Nuclear Cardiology. The CMS has recently started reprocessing Myocardial Perfusion Imaging (MPI) claims to account for the corrections made on the 2010 fee schedule. The proper payment should have already been applied to studies completed following mid 2010 but tests done in early 2010 do not have this added reimbursement. Claims have been reprocessed for a few months now and reports of payments have been received as of March and April 2011. However, some sites are reporting that these payments are being mixed with payments for current claims. This process could continue for up to six months (but may be less) before you see retroactive reimbursement payments for these early 2010 studies. More detailed information on this is available at [http://asnc.org/content\\_10901.cfm](http://asnc.org/content_10901.cfm).



**Robert J. Stilley**  
President  
Heart Care Imaging, INC.

The CMS has recently notified providers to enroll in the Provider Enrollment Chain and Ownership System (PECOS) in order to receive payments for the electronic health record (EHR) incentive payments. Also, the trick here is that your physicians AND any referring physicians you work with must be enrolled on PECOS in order to have claims paid once this provision takes effect and CMS enforced non-compliance. The date for compliance was going to be January 2011 but CMS has held off and will update via transmittal soon. More detailed information on this is available at [http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/01\\_Overview.asp#TopOfPage](http://www.cms.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms/01_Overview.asp#TopOfPage).

The SNM 2011 Annual Meeting—the premier molecular imaging and therapy event—will be held in San Antonio, Texas, June 4-8, 2011. The early bird registration deadline has passed however online, mail, and fax registration is still available.

In closing I would like to emphasize that during these action-packed years of healthcare reform HCI will continue to help you prepare for the upcoming industry changes enabling you to capitalize on these governmental incentives. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Best regards,



### Blue Cross Blue Shield of Delaware broke law, report finds

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Delaware violated state law by signing a contract with a company that guaranteed the health insurer would save money by denying high-tech imaging tests such as nuclear cardiac exams, according to findings of an investigation by Delaware's Department of Insurance. The report blamed insurance companies and doctors for confusion that often left patients stuck in the middle unable to access necessary care.

<http://www.sparkweekly.com/article/20110416/BUSINESS/304160009/-1/TERMS>

### Health IT group opposes MedPAC vote

On April 7, the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) voted 15-1 to recommend that Medicare require clinicians who order more imaging studies than their peers to obtain prior authorization for advanced imaging. The Imaging e-Ordering Coalition pointed to a three-year pilot program in Minnesota, which found that that point-of-order decision support was more efficient than calling in for prior authorization.

<http://www.medicalimaging.org/2011/04/health-it-group-opposes-medpac-vote/>

### New CT method gets calcium score and coronary anatomy in a single scan

Coronary calcium can be accurately quantified with a single standard-contrast computed tomography (CT) scan, thereby eliminating the added radiation exposure of a follow-up noncontrast scan. The expected radiation savings are between 30% and 50% of total protocol dose.

<http://www.theheart.org/article/1210207.do>

### 33rd Annual Recent Advances in Clinical Nuclear Cardiology and Cardiac CT: Featuring Case Review with the Experts

May 5-7, 2011. Join expert faculty in challenging discussions and multiple workshops that address such key topics as: Advances in cardiac SPECT and PET, new approaches for pharmacologic stress testing, recent evidence about clinical applications of cardiac CT, complementary roles of cardiac CT and nuclear cardiology in the clinical setting, future of nuclear cardiology in the context of developments in cardiac CT and cardiac magnetic resonance, recently released Appropriate Use Criteria guidelines and their impact on clinical practice.

<http://www.cardiosource.org/Certified-Education/Courses-and-Conferences/2011/May-2011/Berman-Nuclear.aspx>

### CIGNA announces precertification for nuclear cardiology

Beginning July 1, 2011, CIGNA will require precertification for SPECT myocardial perfusion imaging. Specific codes impacted by this policy include 78460-78499, A9502, and A9505. This policy conflicts with the recent Blue Cross Blue Shield Delaware decision.

[http://www.cigna.com/customer\\_care/healthcare\\_professional/newsletters/March2011\\_Email/841165\\_NETWORK\\_NEWS\\_MAR11.pdf](http://www.cigna.com/customer_care/healthcare_professional/newsletters/March2011_Email/841165_NETWORK_NEWS_MAR11.pdf)

### Strategies for defining an optimal risk-benefit ratio for stress myocardial perfusion SPECT

Studies consistently show that adequate awareness of radiation doses associated with procedures and the risk attributable to these doses is lacking among physicians. This article provides a practical approach to applying the concepts of radiation exposure by targeting MPI utilization to priority populations with appropriate indications.

<http://www.asnc.org/imageuploads/InformationStatementRiskBenefit2011.pdf>

### The Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC) App

This free application is intended to help guide you through the process of determining whether cardiac radionuclide imaging (RNI) is appropriate for your patient, based on a set of published Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC).

<http://astellasapps.com/>

### Eating Apples Daily Lowers Cholesterol, Inflammation, Study Finds

An apple-a-day WILL keep the doctor away! The latest study out on the health benefits of apples reveals an average reduction in total cholesterol by 14%, LDL (bad) cholesterol by 23%, as well as inflammation markers in women. The women who ate an apple-a-day lost an average of 3 pounds of the course of a year.

<http://women.webmd.com/news/20110412/apple-good-for-your-heart>

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