

THE HCI SPOTLIGHT



Robert J. Stilley
President
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LIKE US ON FACEBOOK AND JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

Dear Colleague -

Precise, accurate imaging—think molecular imaging. As HCI enters our 14th year of service, we remain committed to providing the necessary support for our partners to provide the best in diagnostic cardiology. Despite problems in our national economy, insurance roadblocks, and other concerns; nuclear cardiology continues to be the 'go to' study for physicians evaluating CAD. While our healthcare system remains in a state of uncertainty, the value of the proper use of these tests continues to be certain.

We also believe that molecular imaging is the future for cancer screening, treatment, and follow-up care. More specifically, one of our "New Year's" resolutions is to demonstrate clinical excellence in the emerging field of nuclear mammography. With this advanced molecular imaging and technology, there is a need for imaging specialists with the expertise to set the standard. PET and nuclear imaging have not been used routinely in the detection of breast cancer due to availability of equipment, cost, and education. Positron Emission Mammography (PEM) and Breast Specific Gamma Imaging (BSGI) provide highly efficient & exceptional spatial resolution images that are unique and cost effective. HCI is currently collaborating with PEM and BSGI specialists to assist in the earlier detection of cancer. HCI's 14 plus years of technological excellence and dedication to innovative education will help pave the way to make these important tools available to physicians and patients.

On the nuclear cardiology front, CMS recently finalized their 2012 payment policies for physicians and outpatient centers. Among the 2012 payment policies are:

- Reimbursements for nuclear cardiology, cardiac PET, & radiopharmaceuticals
- Accreditation Requirements
- Quality Provisions

Please visit www.asnc.org/hopps for a complete summary of rules and payment charts for 2012. The information from this posting will be effective January 1, 2012.

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Best wishes to you for a wonderful 2012. And a big thanks for your partnership with HCI.

Best regards,



AAPM cautions against skipping imaging

The American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM) is cautioning patients not to forego essential medical imaging tests due to speculation about the risks of radiation exposure. Risks must be balanced with benefits. Risks of medical imaging at effective doses below 50 mSv for single procedures or 100 mSv for multiple procedures over short time periods are too low to be detectable and may be non-existent.

<http://www.auntminnie.com/index.aspx?sec=sup&sub=cto&pag=dis&ItemID=97788&wf=1236>

Medicare imaging volume declines 2.5 percent

The Medical Imaging & Technology Alliance (MITA), a trade group, said the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) confirmed its gloomy projections by reporting that fee-for-service Medicare imaging service utilization declined 2.5 percent last year.

<http://www.dotmed.com/news/story/17701/>

House Vote Sets Stage for 27% Pay Cut for Doctors

The House of Representatives voted 229 to 193 on Tuesday to reject the Senate's payroll tax break bill that also would have delayed a 27% cut in Medicare payments to doctors. The political standoff sets the stage for the cut in Medicare payments to take effect on Jan. 1.

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/Washington-Watch/Washington-Watch/30324>

Losing Reimbursement?

Vast amounts of reimbursement are lost daily due to inaccurate pricing, charging and coding of patient care services, exams, and supplies. Key strategies: Create a multidisciplinary revenue integrity team to strengthen the interface between clinical and revenue programs, leverage new technology/automated solutions and professional support services to identify, address, and prevent errors that cause revenue leakage, Establish a proactive approach to audits/compliance, create thought leadership groups to determine revenue integrity best practices.

<http://imaging-radiation-oncology.advanceweb.com/Features/Articles/Losing-Reimbursement.aspx>

Positron received pharmacy license

Molecular imaging developer Positron has received a nuclear pharmacy license from the Indiana Board of Pharmacy for its manufacturing facility in Crown Point, IN. The license completes the requirements necessary to amend Positron's Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) license to manufacture and distribute radiochemicals and radiopharmaceuticals throughout the U.S., according to the vendor.

<http://www.auntminnie.com/index.aspx?sec=sup&sub=mo&pag=dis&ItemID=97786>

Covidien spins off \$2 billion pharma business

Covidien, one of the world's biggest suppliers of technetium-99m, said Thursday it will spin off its \$2 billion pharmaceutical business into a stand-alone company.

<http://www.dotmed.com/news/story/17696/>

New Studies Contribute to Ongoing Quest for Better Breast Cancer Screening, Care

Considerable strides have been made in the diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer in the United States via Positron Emission Mammography (PEM) scanning. One study "offers new insight into a promising future alternative to mammography," while another "will help us personalize care based on a better understanding of the molecular characteristics of a patient's tumor."

<http://jama.ama-assn.org/content/300/15/1749.extract?sid=3ddcdco6-ad34-4d21-ab06-d0a03928b9b4>

Cloud-based platform facilitates patient data sharing

The cloud-based service allows images and DICOM-"wrapped" reports to be made available over the Internet via a HIPAA-compliant, secure, efficient, and platform-independent system. In contrast to the legacy methods of radiology information exchange, patients benefit from the near-immediate access to imaging exams and reports, including discharge summaries.

<http://www.auntminnie.com/index.aspx?d=1&sec=sup&sub=pac&pag=dis&ItemID=97812&wf=4719>

Nearly All Americans Have At Least One Heart Disease Risk Factor

Nearly every American has at least one risk factor for heart disease, and it's easy to see why: Women are eating 22 percent more than they did in 1971 and men are eating 10 percent more, the American Heart Association says. At the same time, Americans aren't exercising as much as they should.

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/healthcare/nearly-all-americans-have-at-least-one-heart-disease-risk-factor-20111215#.Tu9TR5j0BEs.email>

Top 10 AuntMinnie stories for 2011

[Joint Commission issues alert on medical radiation, August 24, 2011](#)

1. [Teleradiology firm executive convicted of fraud, July 8, 2011](#)
2. [Feds arrest 14 for allegedly taking kickbacks from MRI center, December 13, 2011](#)
3. [The 'Dr. Oz Show' and thyroid shields: The saga continues, April 15, 2011](#)
4. [FDA clears first app for image review on iPads, iPhones, February 4, 2011](#)
5. [Radiation panic hits fever pitch as thyroid scare goes viral, April 12, 2011](#)
6. [Study shows advanced imaging growth coming to an end, November 29, 2011](#)
7. [SalaryScan: Radiologist salaries rise as RT pay falls, May 19, 2011](#)
8. [Dutch researchers revive 115-year-old x-ray machine, March 17, 2011](#)
9. [FDA halts CardioGen-82 use, Bracco starts recall, July 26, 2011](#)