

AIM Workgroup Recommendations

6/22/09

Public purchasers shall implement a consistent program of mandatory utilization management using evidence based guidelines and prospective review, where possible, for the high cost/high variability advanced imaging studies. The program should result in a satisfactory business case (balancing access, quality, and cost) for the State and public purchasers. In addition, the program should stress minimizing the administrative burden on ordering providers.

Recommendations on Evidence based guidelines or protocols

- Public purchasers will use the AGREE Checklist approved by AIM workgroup to identify and select guidelines
- Review of guidelines will be conducted periodically
- Guidelines will not supersede the decisions of the health technology clinical committee
- A vendor of a public purchaser must apply the guidelines chosen by the public purchaser

Recommendations on the Program, including criteria for decision tool and utilization management

- Applicability
 - Target utilization management intervention to identified advanced imaging of high cost/high variability
 - Apply to all providers, to the extent possible
- Program Components
 - Include incentives (for example, programs such as 'gold card')
 - Include denials (with opportunity for peer interaction)
 - Include provider education component
 - Provider performance reports
 - Minimize delays for approving requests that are consistent with evidence based guidelines
 - Meet State standards or URAC or NCQA criteria
 - Include a deployment and communications plan
- Evaluation component
 - Evaluate program's effects in 24 months initially and annually thereafter (cost, utilization trends, service reports, provider satisfaction)
 - Require a vendor of a public purchaser to provide quarterly data