CDS resources and information

Helpful information on Clinical Decision Support education, implementation, and training are abundant and available free of charge. Here are just a few sources:

About Clinical Decision Support:

The American College of Radiology
https://www.acr.org/Clinical-Resources/Clinical-Decision-Support

Introducing Your Practice to CDS:

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC)
https://www.healthit.gov/topic/safety/clinical-decision-support

American Medical Association EdHub™
https://edhub.ama-assn.org/collections/5589/clinical-decision-support

The Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS)
https://www.himss.org/library/clinical-decision-support

Selecting Your CDS Mechanism:

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/Appropriate-Use-Criteria-Program/CDSM.html

The Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS)
https://www.himss.org/library/clinical-decision-support/guidebook-series?navItemNumber=16571

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC)
https://www.healthit.gov/sites/default/files/3-4-3-successful-cds.pdf

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Wilton	30 Danbury Road

1. The Medicare Learning Network®, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), ICN 909377, December 2018. https://acrbulletin.org/acr-bulletin-june-18/1588-what-can-clinical-decision-support-do-for-your-practice
2. Appropriate Use Criteria for Advanced Diagnostic Imaging,
3. AMA Steps Forward: Clinical Decision Support and Diagnostic Imaging, 2017.
4. https://www.healthit.gov/topic/safety/clinical-decision-support
5. https://www.onclive.com/publications/oncology-business-news/2016/january-2016/clinical-decision-support-tools-deliver-benefits-beyond-improved-patient-care

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#2

Clinical Decision Support

Preparing for appropriate imaging and accountability through the use of clinical decision support tools and close collaboration.

Beginning January 1, 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will begin the Educational and Operations Testing period for Clinical Decision Support. Ordering providers will be asked to include a code on all Medicare Part B advanced diagnostic imaging requests signifying that they have consulted a qualified Clinical Decision Support mechanism (CDSM). The imaging providers must also report the CDSM consultation on their Medicare claims.

When the testing period ends and reimbursement denials begin (currently scheduled for January 1, 2021), a clinical decision consult must be documented via a CMS-qualified clinical decision support mechanism. Without a documented consult, rendering providers will not receive Medicare payment for the procedure, and may begin returning or denying orders from non-compliant ordering providers.

Advanced Radiology is committed to being a trusted partner in caring for your patients. We take seriously our role in assuring a smooth transition to the use of CDS, for our referring practices and ourselves. With that responsibility in mind, we will be providing valuable monthly information to help you understand CDS and guide you through the process of selecting a CDSM, integrating it into your practice, and using it to enhance your patient/doctor relationships. In this issue, we provide answers to these key questions about the upcoming transition to CDS:

- **How will my practice benefit from the use of CDS?**
- **What steps should I take to transition my practice to CDS?**
- **Where can I find resources to help my practice with implementation?**

"We are providing feedback to the provider, as if they were consulting a radiology expert in real time," says Robert Cooke, vice president of marketing and strategy at NDSC, a CDSM provider, pointing out that the ACR Appropriateness Criteria is created by panels of subject-specific experts.[1]

How will my practice benefit from CDS?

A CDSM is an interactive digital tool for clinicians that provides AUC information to clinicians as care is being delivered. Ordering providers can use this information to make the most patient-appropriate treatment decision for specific clinical conditions. These tools may be modules within current certified EMR technology, private sector mechanisms independent from certified EHR technology, or those established by CMS.[2]

CDS mechanisms are designed to improve decision-making and are particularly attractive for their ability to address the growing information overload many clinicians face, as well as to provide a platform for integrating evidence-based knowledge into care delivery. Whether a component of a comprehensive EHR system, or a stand-alone mechanism, Clinical Decision Support reduces the number of inappropriate images ordered, helps providers meet quality goals based on utilization, and can

even improve your patient's experience, yielding better satisfaction scores.

Clinical Decision Support (CDS) enables clinicians to demonstrate to patients and payers that they are ordering appropriate imaging tests. CDS tools and resources can empower physicians, inspire them to engage patients in dialogue and shared decision-making, enhance patient safety, and benefit the health care system by minimizing waste and costs.[3]

The Office of the National Coordinator of Healthcare Information Technology (ONC) states that its aim is "to help the health care industry create the technical infrastructure needed to allow health systems to share data with each other electronically to provide the most complete information possible into CDS systems. Complete records allow CDS systems to help with diagnoses and track for negative drug interactions by having a better view of a patient's whole health.[4]

Clinical Decision Support has a number of important benefits, including:

- Increased quality of care and enhanced health outcomes
- Avoidance of errors and adverse events
- Improved efficiency, cost-benefit, and provider and patient satisfaction
- Standard criteria for decision-making
- Transparency for patients and physicians

What steps should I take to implement CDS in my practice?

If your practice uses an electronic health records application, work with your implementation team to integrate clinical decision support technology. Clinical decision support technology will be most useful when it is integrated into your EHR platform. Include your EHR vendor in your discussions about decision support.

The "Right" Types of Tools

There are many different technologies and options available when it comes to clinical decision support tools. When selecting which tools to implement, practices should consider what HHS calls the "CDS Five Rights."[5] These "rights" provide guidance and indicate that clinical decision support tools should provide the right information; to the right people; in the right format; through the right channels; and at the right times.

CRITICAL CDS DEADLINES:

July 2018 to December 2019: Voluntary Reporting Period

January 2020 to December 2020: Educational and Operations Testing

January 2021: Reimbursement Denials Begin

January 2023 or 2024: Outliers Identified

Here is a brief checklist to help your practice plan its implementation of Clinical Decision Support:

- Make sure your medical, professional, and IT staff are aware of the approaching CMS deadlines.

- Explain why you are doing this – legislative requirement and quality improvements.

- Ensure that your IT/informatics team is incorporating AUC into your electronic medical record (EMR) and image ordering and fulfillment systems.

- Meet with various stakeholders:

- Obtain buy-in from administration

- Obtain buy-in from ordering practitioners

- Obtain buy-in from information systems (IS) and information technology (IT)

- Educate relevant staff on how to use the AUC/CDS system you choose – your qCDSM vendor can help.

- Hold regularly-scheduled conference calls with your CDSM vendor, IS/IT and ordering provider leaders

- Provide operational education materials for mandatory viewing prior to turning on your CDS system