Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC)
Ascension St. Vincent’s
What is Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC)?

- Originated from the Protecting Access to Medicare Act (PAMA) signed in 2014 by Congress, being implemented by CMS.
- Evidence-based guidelines are being considered when physicians are ordering advanced diagnostic imaging services (CT, MR, Nuc Med, PET) in applicable settings.
- CMS will start auditing claims for adherence to the regulation on January 1, 2022.
  - The First Phase of our project will only implement the ordering decision support system.
# Radiology Appropriate Use Criteria

**Scope:** CT, MR, Nuc Med, PET & NM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Alert Behavior</th>
<th>Special Qualifiers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACUTE (Hospitals)</td>
<td>Alert prompts based upon <strong>Encounter Type</strong></td>
<td><strong>Observation</strong> and <strong>OP in Bed</strong> - prompts decision alert</td>
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<tr>
<td>EMERGENCY</td>
<td>Alert prompts based upon <strong>Triage Level</strong></td>
<td><strong>Triage Level 4, 5</strong> - Prompts decision alert</td>
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<tr>
<td>AMG/Athena (Clinics)</td>
<td>Alert Prompts based upon <strong>Encounter Type</strong></td>
<td>All insurances will prompt decision alert</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMMUNITY PROVIDERS</td>
<td>Can use paper referral and provide AUC details from the outside website or from their Private EMR. <strong>Initial implementation will not change</strong> the current community provider’s workflows.</td>
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AUC - Overview Ordering Process and Alert

1. Place Order w/ Reason for Exam = CVA
2. Select **Address Alert** more specific information needed to map the Reason for Exam, CVA to the most appropriate order
AUC - Overview Details of Alert Screen

1. Patient Demographics
2. Selected Order
3. Original Reason for Exam
4. Select focused RFE related to “CVA”
5. Scoring details for Requested Exam
   NOTE: Cost, Radiation Exposure, and Am. College of Radiology Appropriateness Scoring
6. Appropriate Exams
   NOTE: Exams display with Red (1-3), Yellow (4-6), Green (7-9)

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Ascension
1. Identify most appropriate exam, select **Replace & Order**
AUC - Overview Details of Ordering

1. Replaced the order as defined...
2. Included the Reason for Exam we selected...
3. Automatically updated the MANDATED AUC details for billing purposes downstream
4. Click **Sign** for order to be officially placed.
AUC - Overview

Link to Video Process Overview

• Note this video starts with the ordering process specific to the Ambulatory workflow - however, the Alert workflow is the same for Ambulatory vs. Acute
Questions

For additional training or questions on the process please reach out to Clinical Informatics at email
albir-dl-physiciansupport@ascension.org

You can also share your questions/ concerns by using the link or QR code

For immediate assistance please call the helpdesk at 205-939-7778