

Clinical Decision Support: CDS Modifiers Released

Specific modifiers and G-Codes for claims processing under the Acceptable Use Criteria (AUC)/Clinical Decision Support (CDS) program have been released as of July 26th. As the Education & Operational Testing period for the program begins January 1st, 2020, it is important that practices are taking steps to prepare for the program's full implementation in 2021 in order to avoid negative impacts on reimbursement. Advocate is committed to supporting our clients through this process by providing resources and communication as more information pertaining to the AUC/CDS program is released.

What are the AUC/CDS modifiers and G-codes?

AUC Codes (HCPCS Modifiers)

Modifier	Purpose	Does it need a G-Code?
MA	Ordering professional is not required to consult a clinical decision support mechanism due to service being rendered to a patient with <i>a suspected or confirmed emergency medical condition</i>	NO
MB	Ordering professional is not required to consult a clinical decision support mechanism due to the <u>significant hardship exception of insufficient internet access</u>	NO
MC	Ordering professional is not required to consult a clinical decision support mechanism due to the <u>significant hardship exception of electronic health record or clinical decision support mechanism vendor issues</u>	NO
MD	Ordering professional is not required to consult a clinical decision support mechanism due to the <u>significant hardship exception of extreme and uncontrollable circumstances</u>	NO
ME	The order for this service <i>adheres to the appropriate use criteria</i> in the clinical decision support mechanism consulted by the ordering professional	YES
MF	The order for this service <i>does not adhere to the appropriate use criteria</i> in the qualified clinical decision support mechanism consulted by the ordering professional	YES
MG	The order for this service <i>does not have appropriate use criteria</i> in the clinical decision support mechanism consulted by the ordering professional	YES
MH	<i>Unknown if ordering professional consulted a clinical decision support mechanism</i> for this service, related information was not provided to the furnishing professional or provider	NO
QQ	Ordering professional consulted a qualified clinical decision support mechanism	N/A

G-Codes – These indicate which CDSM was consulted, these are to be used in conjunction with HCPCS codes ME, MF, and MG.

G-Code	CDSM
G1000	Clinical Decision Support Mechanism Applied Pathways , as defined by the Medicare Appropriate Use Criteria Program
G1001	Clinical Decision Support Mechanism eviCore , as defined by the Medicare Appropriate Use Criteria Program
G1002	Clinical Decision Support Mechanism MedCurrent , as defined by the Medicare Appropriate Use Criteria Program
G1003	Clinical Decision Support Mechanism Medicalis , as defined by the Medicare Appropriate Use Criteria Program
G1004	Clinical Decision Support Mechanism National Decision Support Company , as defined by the Medicare Appropriate Use Criteria Program
G1005	Clinical Decision Support Mechanism National Imaging Associates , as defined by the Medicare Appropriate Use Criteria Program
G1006	Clinical Decision Support Mechanism Test Appropriate , as defined by the Medicare Appropriate Use Criteria Program
G1007	Clinical Decision Support Mechanism AIM Specialty Health , as defined by the Medicare Appropriate Use Criteria Program
G1008	Clinical Decision Support Mechanism Cranberry Peak , as defined by the Medicare Appropriate Use Criteria Program
G1009	Clinical Decision Support Mechanism Sage Health Management Solutions , as defined by the Medicare Appropriate Use Criteria Program
G1010	Clinical Decision Support Mechanism Stanson , as defined by the Medicare Appropriate Use Criteria Program
G1011	Clinical Decision Support Mechanism, qualified tool not otherwise specified , as defined by the Medicare Appropriate Use Criteria Program

Background on AUC/CDS

- PAMA (Protecting Access to Medicare Act) established the Acceptable Use Criteria for Advanced Diagnostic Imaging requirements which states that (beginning 1/1/2020) ordering physicians must consult AUC through the use of a qualified CDSM (Clinical Decision Support Mechanism) prior to ordering advanced diagnostic imaging services (CT, MRI, PET and nuclear medicine)
- January 1st 2020 – the Educational & Operations testing period for the program begins, claims must contain information pertaining to participation in AUC/CDS program but there is no impact to the claim being paid if not present
- January 1st 2021 – claims must contain information pertaining to participation in AUC/CDS program and claims will not be paid if not present

What AUC/CDS information needs to be on a claim?

- The name of the ordering physician and their NPI number
- Modifiers related to Acceptable Use Criteria
 - These modifiers encompass either that a CDSM was consulted and what the outcome was (AUC was met, not met or not available) **OR** that a CDSM could not be consulted for some reason
- G-Code identifying which specific CDSM was used, when applicable. Each CDSM has a unique G-code.

Who is required to consult the CDSM to obtain the required approval?

- The rule requires ordering physicians or his/her auxiliary personnel to consult an approved CDSM to obtain AUC.
- CMS defines auxiliary personnel as clinical staff under the direction of the ordering professional. Accordingly, the ordering doctor can exercise their discretion in delegating the actual performance of the CDSM consultation with the understanding that the staff member must have sufficient clinical knowledge and the ability to interact with the qualified CDSM.

What are the care settings where AUC consolations are required?

AUC requirements apply to advanced imaging services furnished in the following settings;

- Ambulatory surgical centers
- Hospital outpatient settings (including emergency department, however exceptions are allowed for cases where there is a true emergency – indicated by the MA modifier)
- Independent diagnostic testing facilities (IDTF)

This requirement includes claim submissions for the professional, technical and global service

What to do to get ready?

Advocate understands the significant impact this program will have as well as the concerns our clients are facing as AUC/CDS rolls out. We suggest being as proactive as possible and keeping the following in mind:

- Get familiar with the AUC/CDS program – See resource section for more details
- Start working with your facilities and referring physicians now – [Click here for our suggestions on beginning the AUC/CDS conversation](#)
- Advocate is here to help – Reach out to us for support and Advocate will keep you up to date with information as it becomes available.

Resources

- Advocate Resources
 - [Webinars](#) – two part series available on CDS
 - [Clinical Decision Support](#) – further detail and outline of AUC/CDS program
 - [Clinical Decision Support and Critical Access Hospitals](#) – clarification on how CAH facilities tie into the AUC/CDS program
 - [Clinical Decision Support – Are you having the talk?](#) – suggestions on how to begin the CDS conversation with stakeholders and what questions to ask
- CMS Resources
 - [Appropriate Use Criteria \(AUC\) for Advanced Diagnostic Imaging – Educational and Operations Testing Period - Claims Processing Requirements](#) – CMS change request informing Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) of the AUC related HCPCS modifiers
 - [Appropriate Use Criteria](#) – CMS web overview of program
 - [AUC Fact Sheet](#)
 - [List of Qualified Clinical Decision Support Mechanisms](#)