

CMS: Separate Order Is Not Required for CAD

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has informed the ACR that interpretation of the Ordering of Diagnostic Tests Rule (42 CFR 410.32) allows for performance of computer-aided detection (CAD) in conjunction with mammography without a written order from the referring (treating) physician.

Since there is no medical necessity prerequisite for the use of computer-aided detection with mammography procedures, and if all aspects of CAD are performed in conjunction with mammography, the radiologist may determine whether or not CAD should be performed. The use of CAD in conjunction with mammography is covered under the "Radiologist Exception" as noted in the CMS clarification in the Medicare Carriers Manual Transmittal #1725:

15021 (E)(1) Test Design - Unless specified in the order, the radiologist may determine, without notifying the treating physician/practitioner, the parameters of the diagnostic test (e.g., number of radiographic views obtained, thickness of tomographic sections acquired, use of non-use of contrast media).

Please see the July/August issue of the *ACR Radiology Coding Source*™ for a more detailed discussion of the Ordering of Diagnostic Tests rule.

Any member with a question regarding the above may contact the ACR Economics & Health Policy Department at (800) 227-5463, ext. 4584 or via fax at (703) 391-1757.