

High-Tech Radiology Site of Care (SOC) policy

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Developed By: Medical Necessity Criteria Committee

I. Description

These guidelines address the Site of Care (SOC) policy for advanced imaging specifically the medical necessity of imaging at a hospital or facility where a higher level of support may be available for the following high-tech imaging services: magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), magnetic resonance angiography (MRA), computed tomography (CT), and computed tomography angiography (CTA).

A high-tech imaging service (i.e. MRI, MRA, CT, CTA) must meet the applicable medical necessity criteria for coverage. When the requirements for the requested imaging procedure are met, this policy is then used to help determine the medical necessity of the requested site of care.

II. Criteria: CWQI HCS-0312

- A. A high-tech imaging procedure in a hospital-based imaging department or facility is considered medically necessary for an individual with ANY of the following indications:
 - a. 18 years of age and under
 - b. requires obstetrical observation
 - c. requires perinatology services
 - d. imaging related to transplantation services at an approved transplantation facility
 - e. known contrast allergy and use of that contrast agent is planned
 - f. participating in a clinical trial
 - g. cancer diagnosis
 - h. there are no other appropriate alternative sites for the individual to undergo the imaging procedure for ANY of the following reasons:
 - i. surgery or procedure is being performed at the hospital and preoperative or pre-procedure imaging is an integral component of the procedure
 - ii. moderate or deep sedation or general anesthesia is required for the imaging procedure and freestanding facility providing such sedation is not available
 - iii. equipment for the size of the individual is only available at a hospital-based imaging facility
 - iv. individual has a documented diagnosis of claustrophobia requiring open magnetic resonance which is not available in a freestanding facility
 - v. known chronic disease where imaging needs to be performed at a hospital-based imaging department or facility for comparison to prior studies
 - vi. imaging is emergent or urgent and imaging outside the hospital-based imaging department or facility is expected to adversely impact or delay care
- B. All other high-tech radiology imaging procedures at a hospital-based imaging department or facility are considered not medically necessary.

III. References

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