



Radiology Views™ Newsletter – September 2009

The Chairman's Mark - America's Healthy Future Act of 2009

The Senate Committee on Finance, on 9/16/2009, released The Chairman's Mark draft on healthcare reform. The document may be viewed at:

http://finance.senate.gov/sitepages/leg/LEG%202009/091609%20Americas_Healthy_Future_Act.pdf.

While pages 151 and 183 pertain to radiology reimbursement, there are other sections in the document that providers should review to get a global perspective of the potential impact of this proposed bill.

- ✓ **Utilization Rate:** The proposal would raise the utilization rate from 50% to 65%. The ACR has advised that the rate change is roughly "one-for-one" in the technical component. A 15% increase in the utilization rate would roughly equate to a 15% decrease in the technical component allowed amount. The proposal raises the utilization rate to 75% in 2014.
- ✓ **Contiguous Body Parts:** The proposal includes a 50% reduction for contiguous body parts from the current 25% reduction.
- ✓ **Self-Referred Disclosure:** The in-office ancillary exception requires the referring physician to disclose to the individual that the individual may obtain services from another person and the referring physician must supply the individual with a list of suppliers for the service.
- ✓ **Personal Responsibility Requirement:** Beginning in 2013, all U.S. citizens would be required to purchase coverage from a list of options including employer sponsored plans.
- ✓ **PQRI:** PQRI will be expanded to include Maintenance of Certification (MOC) or equivalent programs and complete a qualified MOC practice assessment. CMS would be required to provide timely feedback to providers on their performance and also be required to provide an appeals process to providers who participated in PQRI but did not qualify for the incentive payment.

If you have any questions on this or other documentation and coding topics, please call or email Don Clark, RCC, at 330.564.2608 or dclark@prcmedical.com.