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http://www.acr.org/accreditation/FeaturedCategories/ArticlesAnnouncements/ACR-Accreditation-Brochures.aspx


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http://www.ajronline.org/cgi/content/full/181/6/1481


http://healthpolicyandreform.nejm.org/?p=12525&query=TOC

http://www.ahrq.gov/research/sep09/0909RA12.htm

http://www.rsna.org/Publications/rsnanews/July-2009/Malpractice_Fears_feature.cfm


9. “Image Wisely” Image Wisely is an awareness program of the American College of Radiology, the Radiological Society of North America, the American Association of Physicists in Medicine, and the American Society of Radiologic Technologists. Image Wisely's objective is to encourage practitioners to avoid unnecessary ionizing radiation scans and to use the lowest optimal radiation dose for necessary studies. [http://www.imagewisely.org/](http://www.imagewisely.org/)

**Teleradiology update:**

**CMS Final Rule Revises Process for Credentialing Physicians Who Provide Telemedicine Services**

**ECRI HRC Alert 5/4/11**

**Legal & Regulatory**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued a final rule, revising its conditions of participation for hospitals and critical access hospitals (CAHs) to streamline the privileging and credentialing process for physicians who provide telemedicine services. Previously, hospitals were required to make all privileging decisions for these physicians based on the recommendation of the hospital’s medical staff after the medical staff had thoroughly reviewed the physician’s credentials—a requirement that CMS realized was duplicative and burdensome (see the May 26, 2010, HRC Alerts). The changes set forth in the final rule allow hospitals that serve patients who receive telemedicine services from physicians located in distant facilities to use information supplied by those facilities when making privileging and credentialing decisions. In an expansion to the proposed rule, the final rule also allows this new process to be applied to physicians who provide telemedicine services from nonhospital entities, such as physician groups that provide radiology interpretation services. “Today’s final rule is the result of close collaboration with hospital and telemedicine care experts,” states CMS Administrator Donald M. Berwick, M.D., in a May 2, 2011, CMS press release. “We at CMS want to be sure that as we develop rules to protect the safety and quality of care at America’s hospitals and CAHs, we also devise policies that reflect the most innovative practices in delivering care to all patients, especially patients in rural or remote parts of the country through telemedicine practices.” The final rule is expected to be published in the May 5, 2011, *Federal Register.*