

Accreditation Requirements do Not Apply to Echocardiography

ASE members were represented on a recent call hosted by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) addressing requirements for an upcoming mandatory accreditation program. ASE representatives reported that the accreditation requirements for the technical component due by January 2012 apply to MRI, CT-Scan, and nuclear medicine only. Additionally, they apply only to fee-for-service providers and not hospital-based outpatient services that are reimbursed under prospective payment methodologies.

While the mandatory accreditation requirements applicable to advanced imaging are not applicable to echocardiography or vascular ultrasound, regardless of site of service, some local CMS contractors do apply quality requirements as a precondition of billing echo services (e.g. accreditation, mandatory certification of sonographers, or Level 2 physician training requirements). Members should check with their local contractors to determine the requirements in their states.

For more information please go to:

http://www.CMS.gov/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/03_AdvancedDiagnosticImagingAccreditation.asp

Transcript of the notes of this conference call will be made available at:

www.cms.gov/medicareprovider.