

28 Pa. Code §127.32 Diagnostic Radiology Written Orders

Structured Exception

The Department permits hospitals to accept orders for outpatient diagnostic radiology services issued by practitioners who are not members of the hospital's medical staff provided that they are authorized by PA professional licensure statute or regulations to order diagnostic radiology services.

Clinical evidence/support for this exception

The Department's current regulations require that diagnostic radiology services are performed only upon written order issued by a member of the hospital medical staff, or house staff, or a physician who has been granted clinical privileges.

Ordering diagnostic radiologic tests and procedures is within the legal scope of practice of some licensed practitioners who are not physicians.

The Social Security Act (the Act) and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) regulations govern Medicare payments for all services, including diagnostic radiology services. Medicare permits payment when practitioners other than medical staff who are authorized by the medical staff and the governing body order these services. The Conditions of Participation (CoP) for radiologic services at §482.26(b)(4) explicitly authorize provision of services on the orders of practitioners with clinical privileges as well as other practitioners authorized by the medical staff and the governing body to order such services.

Minimum requirements for this exception

Approved policy for authorizing practitioners who are not on the medical staff to order outpatient diagnostic radiology services.

The approval process must include assurance that the practitioner:

- is appropriately licensed and acting within his/her scope of practice.
- has professional liability insurance, if appropriate

Documentation to be provided to the Dept by the facility:

Policies and procedures reflecting minimum requirements described above.

Review of the outpatient diagnostic radiology services ordered, in accordance with requirements of 28 Pa. Code §§ 119.31-119.34.

Nothing in this regulation limits or is intended to limit the hospital or medical staff from establishing additional requirements for non-medical staff members seeking approval to order outpatient diagnostic radiology services.