

Snapshots: Provider Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2014

RadZone Kids

NIA Magellan¹ is pleased to announce a valuable new site, RadZone Kids, to help patients understand and prepare for medical imaging tests. We've designed this resource to encourage parents to engage and share information with their children to make for an easier, more effective testing experience.

This innovative tool provides an interactive way for families to learn how to best prepare for various radiology tests, including CT scans, MRI scans and X-rays. RadZone Kids also encourages parents to talk with you, the physician, regarding the risks and benefits of any imaging study, and discuss alternatives when appropriate.

RadZone Kids was designed from a child's perspective, with animated characters, bright colors, easy-to-understand descriptions, with an emphasis on learning through simulation. Parents and their children can choose a character and an "adventure" - a CT scan, MRI scan or an X-ray - to better understand and visualize what will happen during the actual test.



Descriptions of the tests are available in language suitable for children and for adults, and there is a parent/caregiver learning section with information about the procedure and questions to ask ahead of time.

According to WedMD, about 7 million CT scans are done on U.S. kids each year - and that number is rising about 10% per year. As the amount of radiation that children are exposed to increases and the patient population is better educated and aware of their health, it is important that parents and their children understand and prepare for various radiology testing.

RadZone Kids empowers you to have more informed discussions with your patients about radiology testing - visit www.RadZoneKids.com and try this site yourself!

CMS Efficiency Measures

NIA Magellan has initiated a program of variation mitigation, which involves an assessment of contrast usage in conjunction with Computed Tomography of the Thorax. The intent of this initiative is to assess and mitigate potentially inappropriate utilization of combined Thorax CT studies (non-contrast enhanced study performed contemporaneously with a contrast enhanced study) which doubles radiation exposure,

carries an element of contrast reaction risk and increases examination cost.

While there is sparse evidence in the literature around appropriate indications for either a contrast or non-contrast Thorax CT study, there is greater consensus in the lack of indications for use of a combined study. The postulate for this review is that there are few, if any, indications for the use of combined unenhanced/enhanced technique in conjunction with a Thorax CT. This same study protocol was recently considered and endorsed by the National Quality Forum.

NIA Magellan educates targeted providers that have been identified as outliers for potentially inappropriate use of contrast in conjunction with CT Thorax, CT Brain/Sinus and MRI Brain imaging procedures.

Linked for your reference, please find a [tip sheet for ordering Advanced Imaging Studies](#).

Contact Information

Please click on the following link for Provider Relations and Area Contract Manager Contact Information:

<http://www1.radmd.com/media/624695/state-network-contacts-0914.pdf>.

1 NIA Magellan refers to National Imaging Associates, Inc.

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