

Ensuring Cardiac Procedures Meet Medicare/Medicaid Reimbursement Criteria



CardioAudit offers a proactive approach to ensuring that a hospital's cardiovascular procedures are medically necessary, helping facilities to meet the challenges of Medicare and Medicaid audits and preventing potential U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) investigations and penalties. Developed by a group of cardiologists with the goal of ensuring adherence to evidence-based medicine and established guidelines, CardioAudit is an external peer review program that helps hospital administrators identify and correct any potential problems before they occur.

This review process is the first of its kind to systematically evaluate specific cardiovascular procedures to determine medical necessity in accordance with guidelines set forth by professional medical societies, and to determine compliance with Medicare National Coverage Determinations (NCDs) and with necessity outside of NCD language.

According to a study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, more than 20% of patients who received implantable cardioverter-defibrillators (ICDs) did not meet evidence-based criteria for implantation. Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC) and Medicaid Integrity Contractor (MIC) auditors and federal regulators are placing hospitals under a high level of scrutiny, forcing facilities to demonstrate that cardiology procedures meet strict medical necessity criteria and guidelines. Penalties under the False Claims Act for performing inappropriate procedures are severe: a court may assess 3 times the amount of damages for each claim plus significant civil and possible criminal penalties. Such investigations also lead to negative publicity for physicians and facilities, causing damage to reputations and impacting revenues.

CardioAudit Benefits:

- ▶ Improves compliance with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reimbursement criteria for cardiology procedures
- ▶ Limits risk and exposure to RAC and MIC audits
- ▶ Reduces risk of False Claims Act liability
- ▶ Demonstrates commitment to upholding the integrity of care and patient safety
- ▶ Improves compliance with evidence-based guidelines

Procedures for Review:

- ▶ Percutaneous coronary interventions
- ▶ Peripheral vascular interventions
- ▶ Carotid artery interventions
- ▶ Coronary artery bypass graft surgeries (CABG) and valve surgery
- ▶ Electrophysiology procedures: ICDs, biventricular pacemakers, single and dual chamber pacemakers, radiofrequency ablations

CardioAudit: A Proactive Solution

Board-certified cardiologists ensure that cardiovascular procedures are medically indicated.

Benefits of CardioAudit

- ▶ Cost-effective
- ▶ Easy to implement
- ▶ Effective at monitoring appropriateness of care
- ▶ Eliminates internal biases
- ▶ Performed under peer review privilege and protected from discovery

CardioAudit can prevent this from happening, through ongoing monitoring and identification of potential overutilization in advance of outside auditing processes. This allows hospitals to take remedial action, including tightening of clinical criteria, providing additional training to physicians and taking other corrective measures that protect all parties.

Findings and recommendations provided by CardioAudit can result in better assessment of coronary blockages and a reduction in the number of costly and ultimately unnecessary coronary interventions. In addition to ensuring the medical necessity of procedures, CardioAudit's board-certified cardiologists also serve to overcome potential barriers to effective peer review, including conflicts of interest, uncompensated time, time limitations, sham reviews, and economic profiling.

CardioAudit Specialty Reviewers

All CardioAudit cases are reviewed by leading board-certified cardiologists who are in active practice, using the latest clinical criteria to ensure that cardiovascular procedures are medically indicated, including American College of Cardiology (ACC) and American Heart Association guidelines (AHA). Sub-specialties include:

- ▶ Interventional cardiology
- ▶ Cardiothoracic surgery
- ▶ Electrophysiology
- ▶ Peripheral vascular disease

CardioAudit Reports

The CardioAudit Report output includes an overview of the work that was done and a scored chart for all the physicians being reviewed, the scores are based off of ACC/AHA guidelines. Along with this scored chart each physician has their own in-depth review and a clinical indications overview that includes the scoring for each case, an overall history of each case and a short narrative from the reviewer.

Contact Us Today

For a free consultation, program design and budgeting information.

Building a CardioAudit Program

Simple and Straightforward: It's easy to develop a CardioAudit program at your hospital. First, we gather information on the number physicians and procedures that are performed. Next, we identify an appropriate sampling size that is statistically valid. Third, we determine the interval for performing case reviews in each sub-specialty area and on each practitioner. A budget and schedule is then put together that meets your needs.

- ▶ Hospital sends a list of all cases to AllMed from the last quarter
- ▶ AllMed selects a random number of cases based on Biostatistician data formulas
- ▶ Selected case list is sent back to the Hospital
- ▶ Hospital compiles the list of needed cases and sends copies of angiograms to AllMed for review
- ▶ AllMed conducts review and gives each case an ACC/AHA score
- ▶ Final report and case reviews are sent to the Hospital
- ▶ Follow-up issues and action items are identified and discussed with certified cardiologists