



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEUROIMAGING

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Neuroimaging Position Statement

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- Due to new innovations and new applications as well as the aging population the demand for imaging has been growing.
- These technologies open new frontiers for diagnosis and therapy, replace older invasive technologies, and dramatically improve patient care.
- Clinician-imagers have specialized expertise in the anatomy and function of specific organ systems and know the clinical relevance of imaging findings. This helps to ensure both the proper utilization and interpretation of images.
- By knowing the patient and natural disease progression, clinician-imagers are uniquely qualified to recommend the appropriate imaging studies and carry out their correct interpretation.
- Clinician-imagers not only interpret images, but are also directly involved in patient care. This results in improved continuity and quality of care.
- Self-referral is an established health care model that increases access to care and quality of care. It is standard medical practice and helps specialists and primary care physicians take care of their patients.
- Medical testing, such as imaging by the patient's physician, does not increase health care costs.
- Making an exception to medical practice by giving an imaging monopoly to radiologists will increase health care costs.
- With the imminent shortage of all physicians as well as the current shortage of subspecialty radiologists, there is a need to have more qualified physicians interpreting imaging studies.