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## CMS Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) Update New 2016 Measure for Radiology

### Measure #406: Appropriate Follow-up Imaging for Incidental Thyroid Nodules

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) adopted new quality measure #406 for the 2016 reporting period. It is anticipated that clinicians who provide the professional component of diagnostic imaging studies will submit this measure.

The intent of this measure is to ensure patients with incidental findings that are highly likely to be benign do not receive follow up imaging routinely. It applies to patients 18 years and older with no known thyroid disease that have an incidental thyroid nodule less than 1.0 cm that has been noted in the imaging study and documented in the final interpretive report. In this case, the final report must state one of the following:

- No follow-up imaging is recommended
- Follow-up imaging is recommended and the medical reason is stated (e.g., multiple endocrine neoplasia or cervical lymphadenopathy)
- Follow-up imaging is recommended without giving a medical reason

As long as documentation reflects the presence of incidental thyroid nodules noted during the study, two PQRS codes are reported to CMS. If no nodules are noted, the study will be assigned a single PQRS exclusion code for the measure. The designated PQRS codes and their respective applications are summarized below.

Final reports with follow-up imaging recommended	<b>G9554</b> Performance Met/Final reports for CT or MRI of the chest or neck, or Ultrasound of the neck with follow-up imaging recommended <b>AND</b> <b>G9552</b> Incidental thyroid nodule less than 1.0 cm noted in report
Documenting medical reason(s) for recommended follow-up	<b>G9555</b> Medical Performance Exclusion/Final report reflects the medical reason(s) that follow-up imaging is indicated <b>AND</b> <b>G9552</b> Incidental thyroid nodule less than 1.0 cm noted in report
Final report without incidental finding	<b>G9557</b> Other Performance Exclusion/final reports for CT or MRI studies of the chest or neck, or Ultrasound of the neck without a thyroid nodule less than 1.0 cm noted
Final reports with follow-up imaging not recommended	<b>G9556</b> Performance not met/final reports for CT or MRI of the chest or neck, or Ultrasound of the neck with follow-up imaging not recommended <b>AND</b> <b>G9552</b> Incidental thyroid nodule less than 1.0 cm noted in report



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The following imaging studies apply to this PQRS measure. There are no associated diagnosis requirements.

- 70490 CT soft tissue neck without contrast
- 70491 CT soft tissue neck with contrast
- 70492 CT soft tissue neck without contrast followed by contrast and further sections
- 70540 MRI orbit, face and/or neck without contrast
- 70542 MRI orbit, face and/or neck with contrast
- 70543 MRI orbit, face and/or neck without contrast followed by contrast and further sequences
- 71250 CT chest without contrast
- 71260 CT chest with contrast
- 71270 CT chest without contrast followed by contrast and further sections
- 70498 CTA neck with contrast including non-contrast images, if performed, and image post-processing
- 72125 CT cervical spine without contrast
- 72126 CT cervical spine with contrast
- 72127 CT cervical spine without contrast followed by contrast and further sections
- 71550 MRI chest (ie, for evaluation of hilar and mediastinal lymphadenopathy) without contrast
- 71551 MRI chest (ie, for evaluation of hilar and mediastinal lymphadenopathy) with contrast
- 71552 MRI chest (ie, for evaluation of hilar and mediastinal lymphadenopathy) without contrast, followed by contrast and further sequences
- 76536 Ultrasound, soft tissues of head and neck (eg, thyroid, parathyroid, parotid), real time with image documentation

In keeping with the specifications of this measure, APS coding personnel will assign the applicable PQRS code(s) at the time of coding processing, based on the documentation within the final interpretive reports.

The full details of Measure # 406 can be downloaded at:

<https://pqrs.cms.gov/dataset/2016-PQRS-Measure-406-11-17-2015/js7u-5xew>