

Thomas G. Dehn, MD, FACR

Chief Medical Officer

Michael J. Pentecost, MD, FACR

Associate Chief Medical Officer



Dear Colleagues,

As you know, NIA has long supported the need for quality imaging providers as a key component to the delivery of the most cost-effective, clinically appropriate care. Our provider assessment and privileging programs for both NIA's contracted network and many of our customers' imaging networks apply key quality guidelines to ensure access to the highest quality imaging providers.

NIA has historically required American College of Radiology (ACR) accreditation as part of this process, in addition to the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission's (IAC) nuclear medicine program (ICANL). I am pleased to inform you that effective February 14, 2011, NIA will commence accepting Intersocietal IAC accreditation as well for its MRI and CT programs. The decision to accept IAC's accreditation programs was based on an extensive review and evaluation of all CMS-approved accrediting organizations and IAC's ability to fulfill NIA's image quality requirements. At NIA's recommendation, IAC has agreed to add the requirement for phantom images to its application process, which demonstrates the quality of CT and MR images and ensures that the patient will receive the highest quality study.

As of February 14, 2011, the Intersocietal Commission for Accreditation of Magnetic Resonance Laboratories (ICAMRL), and Intersocietal Commission for Accreditation of Computed Tomography Laboratories (ICACTL) programs for MRI and CT, respectively, will be accepted for our health plan providers. Practices that were not previously approved by NIA due to their IAC accreditation programs in 2010 or early 2011 will be contacted and advised of this new policy.

The Joint Commission, also endorsed by CMS as an accrediting body, has not yet released the details of its program. It will be reviewed when it becomes available.

We at NIA are pleased that both ACR and IAC support our mission of ensuring and maintaining high quality standards for consumers undergoing diagnostic medical imaging studies, and look forward to continuing our relationship with you and your providers.

Should you have any questions regarding NIA accreditation, please contact Michael J. Pentecost, MD, FACR, Associate Chief Medical officer (mipentecost@magellanhealth.com).

Regards,

Michael J. Pentecost, MD, FACR
Associate Chief Medical Officer, NIA