

March 18, 2020

Magellan Healthcare Specialty Update

Use of CT to detect Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Magellan Healthcare has been closely monitoring the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) as well as measures taken by global health experts and government officials. These measures include the declaration by the World Health Organization of COVID-19 as a pandemic. As you may know, given these circumstances many countries are suspending schools, closing borders and enforcing quarantine measures.

Although there may be some early literature indicating that computed tomography (CT) scan imaging may aid in the detection, quarantine and treatment of these patients, our recommendation is to utilize the **American College of Radiology (ACR) Recommendations for the Use of Chest Radiography and Computed Tomography (CT) for Suspected COVID-19 Infection**. These recommendations are available [here](#).

The key points of these recommendation are:

- **The CDC does NOT recommend use of CXR or CT to diagnose COVID-19. Viral testing is the only method of testing which should be utilized.**
- **CT should be used sparingly for sick patients in the inpatient setting.**
 - We strongly support both the ACR position and the use of every measure to prevent transmission of COVID-19 in all outpatient facilities.
 - We believe outpatient imaging centers are not currently equipped to image patients who may be highly infective.

Imaging should be reserved for those cases where it will impact patient management and is clinically indicated, or where it will be utilized to evaluate unrelated urgent/emergent indications.

Additional general recommendations:

- Follow CDC infection control guidelines, available [here](#).
- Limit or reschedule non-essential outpatient visits (especially among older individuals or those with severe chronic illness).
- Recognize that most febrile respiratory illnesses ARE NOT COVID-19 related at this time. We must be sure to appropriately diagnose conditions before making a final diagnosis of COVID-19.
- Delay elective surgical procedures.
- Be a source of calm and well-informed guidance to our communities.

The healthcare system we are a vital part of can save lives and preserve essential services for those with non-COVID-19 related illnesses with a steady and reasoned approach.