

**§482.26(b)(4) - Radiologic services must be provided only on the order of practitioners with clinical privileges or, consistent with State law, of other practitioners authorized by the medical staff and the governing body to order the services.**

**Interpretive Guidelines §482.26(b)(4)**

The medical staff and the governing body determine the necessary qualifications and clinical privileges that practitioners must have to order diagnostic radiologic studies or therapeutic procedures.

For outpatient services, the governing body and medical staff may also authorize practitioners who do not have hospital privileges to order such studies or procedures, as permitted under State law. For example, a hospital may decide that it will routinely accept orders from physicians in the communities it services for outpatient diagnostic studies, regardless of whether those physicians have privileges to practice in the hospital. See the guidance for §482.54(c) for more information on requirements related to outpatient orders from practitioners who do not hold privileges to practice at the hospital.

The order must include information for the radiologic technologist about the study or procedure to be performed, and the technologist is expected to review this information prior to implementing the order.

### **For Information Only – Not Required/Not to be Cited**

Hospitals are strongly encouraged, but not required, to develop standard formats for practitioner's orders for radiologic services that clearly document the diagnostic or therapeutic purpose of the study/procedure, as well as any other pertinent information that may lead to altering the dose of radiation, including, but not limited to:

- Indication (reason) for the study/procedure
- Previous imaging studies of the body part(s) under investigation;
- Additional relevant radiation exposure; and
- Previous adverse events (e.g., over- or underexposure of dosing, allergic reaction to contrast dye) during radiologic procedures.

In addition, hospitals are encouraged to adopt policies to ensure that the radiation technologist performing the study/procedure confirms the order with the ordering practitioner if there are any concerns about its appropriateness.

### **Survey Procedures §482.26(b)(4)**

- Review medical records to determine that there is an order for all radiologic services, and that the order was dated/timed and authenticated by an authorized practitioner prior to the diagnostic study or therapeutic procedure being performed.

Observe whether a radiologic technologist confirms that there is an order from an authorized practitioner and reviews information included in the order before beginning a study or procedure.