Provider Led Entity

CDI Quality Institute AUC Questions: Cough / Dyspnea

02/05/2019

Patient/Problem: Appropriateness of advanced imaging procedures in patients with the following clinical presentations:

- Cough and/or dyspnea presenting with a high clinical suspicion for pneumonia and a negative or indeterminate initial chest radiograph
- Cough and/or dyspnea in patients with pneumonia not responding to treatment and/or with suspected complications (e.g., parapneumonic effusion or abscess)
- Cough and/or dyspnea in an immunocompromised patient
- Chronic cough that persists after consideration of and/or empiric treatment for the most common causes (UACS, GERD, NAEB and asthma)
- Chronic cough and/or dyspnea in patients with suspected asthma who have an atypical presentation or are not responding to treatment (to evaluate for an alternative diagnosis)
- Chronic cough in patients with suspected bronchiectasis with negative or indeterminate chest radiographs
- Chronic cough in patients with hemoptysis or risk factors for lung cancer
- Chronic cough and/or dyspnea in patients with occupational exposure (to silica, asbestos, coal dust, or other inorganic compounds) and suspected interstitial lung disease or malignancy
- Chronic cough in patients who have lived in areas with a high prevalence of TB or in areas of endemic parasite or fungal infections
- Chronic cough and/or dyspnea with suspected COPD, interstitial lung disease, central airway disease or chest wall/pleural disease

For patients > 18 years of age, in a community outpatient setting, without pregnancy, and for the purposes of diagnosis.

Interventions: Advanced testing – MRI with and/or w/o IV contrast, CT with and/or w/o IV contrast, MRA, CTA, Nuclear medicine scanning and FDG-PET scanning.

Comparison: Gold standard (image findings, biopsy results, surgical findings, angiographic findings or patient outcome).

Outcome: Diagnostic accuracy, effect on patient management, and/or patient outcome.

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Exclusions:

- Known malignancy
- Bronchiolitis
- Pulmonary vascular disease
- Decreased cardiac output / congestive heart failure
- Acute respiratory distress syndrome
- Restrictive lung disease secondary to diaphragmatic weakness, scoliosis and neuromuscular diseases
- Cystic fibrosis
- Primary ciliary dyskinesia
- Environmental hypoxia
- Anemia
- Hemoglobinopathy
- Renal disease
- Behavioral factors (anxiety, panic)
- Pediatric patients
- Pregnant patients