



MITA
MEDICAL IMAGING
& TECHNOLOGY ALLIANCE
A DIVISION OF **NEMA**

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Medical Imaging & Technology Alliance Applauds CMS for Reconsidering CCTA National Coverage Decision

Rosslyn, VA – March 12, 2008 – The Medical Imaging & Technology Alliance (MITA), a division of NEMA, today praised the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for reconsidering its proposed national coverage decision (NCD) that would have drastically limited patient access to cardiac computed tomography angiography (CCTA) – an extremely important medical imaging tool that detects Coronary Artery Disease (CAD) non-invasively, eliminating the need for surgery or catheterization.

“MITA applauds CMS for following through on its commitment to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of all the data before issuing its final CCTA coverage decision,” said Andrew Whitman, Vice President, MITA. “This revised decision will benefit countless Americans who would have been needlessly subjected to more invasive and expensive in-patient procedures if CMS’ proposed decision had been accepted.”

“CMS should be commended for considering the full scope of established evidence and clinical analysis in formulating its CCTA decision,” said Whitman. “CCTA has revolutionized the way doctors diagnose heart disease and I am pleased that CMS’ final decision acknowledges CCTA’s scientifically proven effectiveness.”

According to the National Institutes of Health, CAD is the most common type of heart disease—and the number one killer for both men and women. Based on positive data from numerous peer-reviewed scientific studies, CCTA has widespread acceptance as a proven technology that rules out heart disease with greater than 99 percent accuracy, while avoiding the high costs of hospitalization for alternative procedures. As a result, CCTA is used in more than 2,000 centers nationwide and has been approved by local Medicare carriers in all 50 states.

“CCTA has become the standard of care for cardiac disease throughout the country and the world,” said Whitman. “MITA is proud to have worked with CMS, 91 Members of Congress and others to ensure that heart disease patients nationwide have continued coverage for this important diagnostic tool.”

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Representatives Baldwin, Buyer, Camp, Cramer, Green (Gene), McCarthy (Carolyn), Myrick, Pitts, Walsh, Whitfield, Wilson (Heather) and Senators Grassley, Kennedy, Kerry, Shelby and Voinovich wrote individual letters urging CMS to reconsider its CCTA proposed National Coverage Decision. After weighing-in individually, Reps. McCarthy, Pitts and Green also coordinated a Dear Colleague letter to CMS, which garnered signatures from 78 Members of Congress, including:

Alexander, Allen, Berman, Bilirakis, Blackburn, Boswell, Boustany, Butterfield, Capps, Capuano, Castle, Conaway, Cubin, Cummings, Delahunt, English, Ferguson, Fossella, Frank, Gerlach, Gilchrest, Gonzalez, Green (Al), Green (Gene), Hall (Ralph), Herger, Higgins, Hodes, Hulshof, Inglis, Inslee, Jefferson, Kagen King (Peter), Kirk, Kuhl, Larsen, LaTourette, LoBiondo, Lowey, Maloney, Marchant, Matheson McCarthy (Carolyn), McCarthy (Kevin), McGovern, McNulty, Meek, Michaud, Moore (Dennis), Murphy (Christopher), Neal, Neugebauer, Olver, Ortiz, Pascrell, Paul, Pickering, Pitts, Porter, Price, (Tom), Rahall, Reyes, Rogers (Mike-MI), Roskam, Ruppersberger, Scott (Bobby), Sessions, Shimkus, Souder, Sutton, Tanner, Tierney, Towns, Tsongas, Walberg, Wamp, and Wilson (Charles).