R-SCAN™ is a clinical practice improvement activity that brings radiologists and referring clinicians together to reduce avoidable imaging and streamline image ordering. R-SCAN delivers immediate access to Web-based tools and clinical decision support (CDS) technology that help you optimize imaging care, reduce unnecessary imaging exams and lower the cost of care. There is no cost to participate.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?
R-SCAN’s goal is to optimize imaging care in outpatient and emergent care settings. Radiologists, primary care physicians, emergency care physicians and other clinicians who order imaging exams in these settings are welcome to participate. All resources needed to carry out an R-SCAN project are located at rscan.org.

WHY R-SCAN?
- **It’s the right thing to do for your patients.** Now you can focus on ordering the right image at the right time — guided by evidence-based appropriateness data.

- **It’s focused on highly relevant imaging exams to improve utilization.** Radiologists and referring clinicians collaborate to improve image ordering based upon Choosing Wisely® topics — many endorsed by multiple medical societies — that are likely to yield success.

- **It’s an opportunity to receive credit for the Improvement Activities performance category under MIPS.** Referrers and radiologists must demonstrate improved patient care at lower costs under the CMS Quality Payment Program, and R-SCAN provides a proven path forward.

- **It’s an easy (and free) way to give CDS a try.** In the near future, most advanced imaging orders for Medicare patients must be based on appropriate use criteria that are integrated into CDS. For facilities that do not already have CDS implemented, R-SCAN helps you get started now, so you’ll be ready.

- **It’s a data-driven way to improve imaging utilization.** R-SCAN provides quantitative results that allow referrers and radiologists to collaborate to improve the ordering of imaging exams. Supportive educational tools and resources are available at rscan.org — several offering CME.
HOW DOES R-SCAN WORK?
It all starts when referring clinicians and radiologists agree to form a collaborative care team to improve image ordering using R-SCAN. The team selects one or more Choosing Wisely topics from rscan.org that best fit the team goal for clinical improvement. The R-SCAN team leader (either a referring clinician or radiologist) registers for free R-SCAN participation.

Coming Soon! Facilities that already have CDS integrated into their order entry systems will be able to create R-SCAN reports using their CDS data. See the “What If I Already Have a CDS Tool Installed?” question on page 4.

The R-SCAN team carries out the clinical improvement activity in three phases — typically over a three- to six-month period. See the R-SCAN How-to Guide for more information.

Phase 1: Collect and Rate Cases
- Radiology team members collect cases, either retrospectively or prospectively, that the referring clinicians’ practice ordered. The R-SCAN team determines how the cases will be reviewed — ideally by a collaborative group of referring clinicians and radiologists.
- Using a free, customized version of the ACR Select® CDS tool, the designated person or team reviews the cases, rates the appropriateness of each exam, and enters the case data into the R-SCAN database.
- The R-SCAN team reviews an automated report of appropriate vs. inappropriate exams ordered to identify opportunities for improvement.

Phase 2: Conduct Educational Activities
- Based on the team’s recommendations for improvement, radiologists propose and hold educational activities with referring clinicians and staff that guide improved imaging ordering.
- The R-SCAN team capitalizes on a wide variety of educational resources — some of which offer CME Credit — to support the educational program.

Phase 3: Assess Improvement
- After the educational program, radiology practice personnel repeat the collection and rating process from Phase 1 (with the same number of cases from the same Choosing Wisely topic).
- The R-SCAN team then reviews the results to determine overall improvement in image ordering and completes an online project report.

HOW MUCH TIME IS REQUIRED?
Staff time dedicated to an R-SCAN project ranges from 15 to 30 hours over a three- to six-month period.

WHAT ARE THE CHOOSING WISELY IMAGING TOPICS?
R-SCAN was launched with 10 Choosing Wisely topics pertaining to outpatient and emergent imaging that were selected by the R-SCAN physician advisory panel.
Topic selection criteria includes: potential impact for avoiding imaging unnecessarily, the existence of associated ACR Appropriateness Criteria®, and the inclusion of indications and clinical scenarios in ACR Select. Additional topics will be added that meet the R-SCAN advisory panel’s criteria.

The list of Choosing Wisely imaging topics included in R-SCAN is available on the R-SCAN website at rscan.org.

HOW IS CDS USED IN R-SCAN?
One of R-SCAN’s many free tools is ACR Select, a CDS product that delivers a digital version of the ACR Appropriateness Criteria (or other certified appropriate use criteria) to participating clinicians’ desktops. Referring clinicians have the opportunity to become familiar with how an imaging CDS tool works. ACR Select is also used to determine the level of appropriateness of exams ordered retrospectively by the collaborating referring physicians.

The team uses CDS to rate the appropriateness of exams ordered for one of R-SCAN’s Choosing Wisely topics before and after a site-specific educational program is carried out. R-SCAN participants can select from presentations, case reviews, podcasts, videos and articles featuring the most current evidence to support clinicians ordering the right imaging exam for the right reason for patients.

Facilities participating in R-SCAN that do not already have CDS integrated into their order entry systems will receive free access to the customized ACR Select product available for R-SCAN use.

HOW CAN REFERRING CLINICIANS GAIN EXPERIENCE WITH CDS VIA R-SCAN PARTICIPATION?
Referring clinicians participating in R-SCAN can gain CDS experience several ways:

1. **By registering for R-SCAN, referring clinicians gain free access to an ACR Select Web portal on the R-SCAN website.** For each of R-SCAN’s Choosing Wisely topics, sample cases show how to enter patient and clinical information to view a list of possible imaging exams that could be ordered and the associated appropriateness rating. Referrers can explore recommended imaging for hundreds of other indications and clinical scenarios.

2. **R-SCAN participating referrers and radiologists can review cases ordered for their patients as a team and use ACR Select to guide the discussion about the most appropriate imaging option.** R-SCAN’s Choosing Wisely imaging topics are among those with the most potential for improved ordering through joint case review and discussion.

3. **Referring clinicians can try CDS to experience how it facilitates selecting the best exam for their patients.** As part of the education to improve the ordering of imaging exams for one of R-SCAN’s Choosing Wisely topics, a referring practice can opt to use CDS when placing an order for each exam.
WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS FOR REFERRING CLINICIANS WHO USE R-SCAN AND CDS?
Gaining experience with CDS now will help referring clinicians be prepared for the implementation of federal reimbursement requirements for CDS consultation prior to ordering advanced imaging. This alternative to pre-authorization reduces time and expense for practices and patients when imaging is the next step in the diagnostic process.

WHAT IF I ALREADY HAVE A CDS TOOL INSTALLED?
The ACR will provide a reporting tool for R-SCAN participants to generate reports with no involvement from facility IT departments. Please contact the R-SCAN team for more details at rscaninfo@acr.org.

IS TECHNICAL SUPPORT REQUIRED?
No. Participants can easily use a standalone, Web-based version of ACR Select to rate case appropriateness in R-SCAN, so no IT support is required. However, some R-SCAN participating practices request IT support to collect retrospective case data.

IS MOC OR CME AVAILABLE?
Yes, radiologists and internal medicine physicians who plan to claim MOC Part 4 Credit for R-SCAN participation will need to demonstrate having played a meaningful role in carrying out one or more of the R-SCAN steps. For many topics, physicians can earn CME Credits and equivalent SA-CME for radiologists.

WHO SPONSORS R-SCAN?
R-SCAN is funded through a CMS Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative grant awarded to the American College of Radiology.

“Collaboration with referring physicians is a critical opportunity for radiologists. We have to be much more than the report. We need to be proactive, where we’re out there as the consultant to our referring physicians. In effect, R-SCAN allows us to be that consultant.”

“...the biggest value of R-SCAN may come somewhat surprisingly to most radiologists. Beyond simply interpreting images and generating a report, we will be able to demonstrate our value not only to hospital leadership and referring providers, but also to payers. This program will make it easier for us to show that what we do and, more importantly, how we do it can impact patient management.”

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?
Visit rscan.org or email questions to rscaninfo@acr.org.