



January 25, 2008

Leah Hole-Curry, JD
Director, Health Technology Assessment
Washington Health Care Authority
Olympia, WA

Dear Ms Hole-Curry:

On behalf of members of the Advanced Medical Technology Association, AdvaMed, I want to share our concerns with the assessment for Virtual Colonoscopy. It appears that the CTC assessment is being rushed through to meet an arbitrary timetable, which will not serve the best interests of patients. Among the signs of a rush to judgment:

- Late in the day on December 21, the HCA issued draft questions, with comments due on January 4, 2008. While it is important for the HCA to conduct its work in a timely manner, it is implausible to think that during that time period many stakeholders would be focused on technology assessment questions and be able to prepare more than a cursory response. Then, the draft report was released on January 11, with only a two week comment period.
- As the first assessment scheduled for 2008, it would be completed prior to publication of the final results of a definitive study of Virtual Colonoscopy; the American College of Radiology Imaging Network (ACRIN) study. Under the HCA processes, reconsideration of the technology to incorporate greater consideration of the ACRIN study would not take place until eighteen months.
- Page seventeen of the draft report references the ACRIN study. The citation notes that preliminary findings were released in September and that a website report is enclosed as an attachment. However, since the report of the findings was not attached, assessment commenters are unable to comment on the ACRIN study.

Due to the ACRIN report's significance, as indicated in the draft assessment, we strongly urge that the ACRIN findings be included in the Clinical Committee's consideration by either postponing the CTC assessment until the ACRIN findings are finalized and published or convening an advisory committee that would be able to take into account the preliminary ACRIN findings.

I appreciate your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Tremble
Associate Vice President, State Government Relations