

# NEWS RELEASE



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## *For Immediate Release*

### **UNITEDHEALTH GROUP COLLABORATES WITH AMERICAN COLLEGE OF RADIOLOGY AND INTERSOCIETAL ACCREDITATION COMMISSION ON NEW QUALITY INITIATIVE FOR DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING SERVICES**

*UnitedHealth Group recognizes and promotes American College of Radiology and Intersocietal Accreditation Commission accreditation programs and urges all imaging facilities to become accredited.*

**Minneapolis, (January 11, 2007)** —UnitedHealth Group announced a new, nationwide quality improvement initiative today that will help ensure consumers receive the highest-quality, safest imaging services available.

The “UnitedHealthcare Imaging Accreditation Program” is based on the expertise and accreditation standards jointly developed by the American College of Radiology (ACR) and the more than 22 sponsoring organizations of the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC). These prestigious physician-led organizations are dedicated to improving both the quality and safety of the imaging services used by thousands of patients every day to diagnose medical conditions.

Under the program, UnitedHealth Group will enlist the expertise of the ACR and IAC in facilitating accreditation for its network of contracted imaging physicians.

“Diagnostic imaging, when performed in high-quality and safe centers, is critical to optimal medical care outcomes,” said Reed V. Tuckson, M.D., UnitedHealth Group’s executive vice president and chief of medical affairs. “We recognize and respect the accreditation expertise of the ACR and the IAC, and we are convinced that our customers deserve to receive care from accredited facilities. As such, we take this opportunity to strongly encourage all UnitedHealthcare participating imaging physicians to immediately take the steps necessary to become accredited. It’s the right thing to do.”

The “UnitedHealthcare Imaging Accreditation Program” focuses on Computed Tomography, Computed Tomography Angiography, Magnetic Resonance Imaging, Magnetic Resonance Angiography, Nuclear Medicine/Cardiology, Positron Emission Tomography, and Echocardiography services that are performed in freestanding outpatient facilities and physician

offices. These highly technical imaging procedures are widely used by physicians as important tools in the diagnosis and evaluation of a wide variety of medical conditions.

Arl Van Moore, Jr., M.D., FACR, chair of the ACR Board of Chancellors, said: “Accreditation assesses the overall quality of a practice, including personnel, equipment, quality assurance (QA) activities, and ultimately the quality of patient care. Accreditation is an opportunity for providers and facilities to demonstrate to patients and referring physicians that they are committed to providing the highest quality care.”

According to Gary V. Heller, M.D., associate director of the Division of Cardiology, director of the Nuclear Cardiology Laboratory at the Hartford Hospital in Connecticut and president of the IAC, “Participating in the process of accreditation provides imaging facilities, regardless of modality, an opportunity to conduct an extensive evaluation of every aspect of daily operation. This in-depth assessment, combined with a detailed peer review, is extremely beneficial to laboratories as they strive to improve the quality of care they are able to provide patients.”

#### **About the American College of Radiology (ACR)**

The ACR is a national, professional organization serving more than 32,000 radiologists, radiation oncologists, interventional radiologists, nuclear medicine physicians, and medical physicists with programs focusing on the practice of radiology and the delivery of comprehensive health care services. For over three quarters of a century, the ACR has devoted its resources to making imaging safe, effective and accessible to those who need it. For more information, visit [www.acr.org/accreditation/index.html](http://www.acr.org/accreditation/index.html).

#### **About the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission**

The Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC) is a national, nonprofit organization in operation to evaluate and accredit diagnostic imaging facilities, thus improving the quality of patient care provided in private offices, clinics and hospitals where such medical tests are provided. The IAC is comprised of five organizations: ICAVL for noninvasive vascular; ICAEL for Echocardiography; ICANL for nuclear medicine/nuclear cardiology; ICAMRL for magnetic resonance and ICACTL for computed tomography. Each of these multi-disciplinary organizations is sponsored by all medical specialties involved in the specific imaging modality for which accreditation is offered. For more information, visit [www.intersocietal.org](http://www.intersocietal.org).

#### **About UnitedHealth Group**

UnitedHealth Group is a diversified health and well-being company dedicated to making health care work better. Headquartered in Minneapolis, Minn., UnitedHealth Group offers a broad spectrum of products and services through six operating businesses: UnitedHealthcare, Ovation, AmeriChoice, Uniprise, Specialized Care Services and Ingenix. Through its family of businesses, UnitedHealth Group serves approximately 70 million individuals nationwide.

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**For further information on this issue go to:**

- [Imaging Accreditation Brochure](#)
- [UnitedHealth Group IAC Press Release](#)