

Dear Dr. X (Unique study ID):

Attached is a report displaying the appropriateness of MRI lumbar spine examinations you ordered between January 1 2014 and May 31 2014, compared to similar University of Pennsylvania Health System primary care providers [1]. To clarify, the total number of MRI L spine studies you ordered (6) is divided into four groups: appropriate, inappropriate, uncertain, and not covered by guidelines. Your total number of patient visits for back pain during this period was 84. Using this report, your individual metrics for this time period are as follows:

1. % Appropriate MRI L spine exams ordered / Total # MRI L spine exams ordered	33% (2 / 6)
2. % Inappropriate MRI L spine exams ordered / Total #MRI L spine exams ordered	17% (1 / 6)
3. % Total # MRI L spine exams ordered / Total # patient visits for lower back pain	7% (6 / 84)

This report is generated as part of a clinical decision support research project funded by the NIBIB. The purpose of this IRB-approved study is to evaluate the use of evidence-based decision support and subsequent feedback on adherence to evidence-based guidelines. The order entry patterns of any individual provider will not be revealed to anyone other than the study personnel and will not affect your employment or individual evaluations.

Unlike the MID project, which applies to a long list of exams ordered for Medicare fee-for-service patients, this NIBIB-funded project applies only to MRI of the lumbar spine, and to all non-Medicare patients in your practice.

We hope you find the attached report to be informative. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Study team

1. Chou et al. Diagnosis and Treatment of Low Back Pain: A Joint Clinical Practice: Guideline from the American College of Physicians and the American Pain Society, Ann Intern Med. 2007;147:478-491.

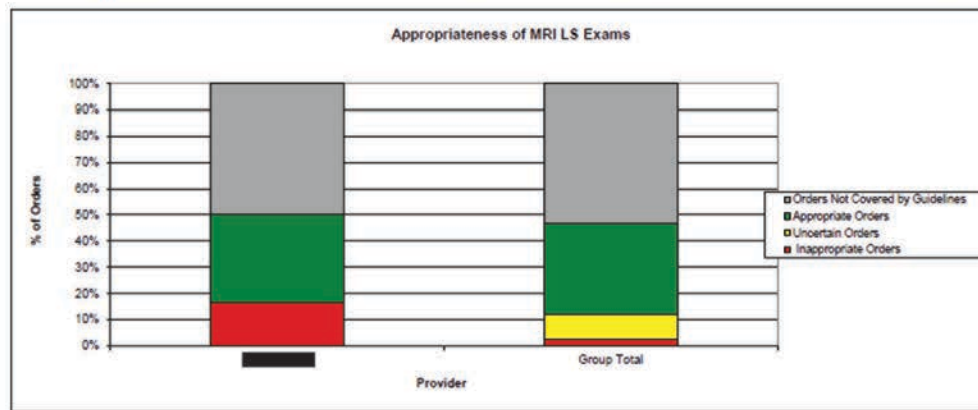
Fig. 2—Sample of provider report cards.

A and B, Images show sample of provider report card letter (A) and sample of provider report card graphic (B). L = lumbar, LS = lumbar spine, IRB = institutional review board, NIBIB = National Institute for Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, MID = Medicare Imaging Demonstration, NPI = National Provider Identifier.

A

From 1/1/2014 through 5/31/2014, you ordered 6 imaging studies as part of the NIBIB Study. According to the MID professional society guidelines, of the 6 total studies, 2 were graded as appropriate, 1 were graded inappropriate, 0 were graded uncertain, and the remaining 3 were did not have applicable professional society guidelines.

NPI	Total Orders	Start_Date	End_Date	Appropriate Orders	Inappropriate Orders	Uncertain Orders	Orders Not Covered by Guidelines
[Redacted]	6	1/1/2014	5/31/2014	2	1	0	3
Group Total	133	1/1/2014	5/31/2014	46	3	13	71



B