

SCAI/ACVP expert consensus statement on cardiovascular catheterization laboratory economics: If the cath lab is your home you should understand its finances

Authors Blankenship JC, Choi JW, Das TS, McElgunn PM, et al.

Citation *Catheter Cardiovasc Interv* 2019; 94: 123–35
DOI:10.1002/ccd.28330

Period of study Patient enrolment: May 2015 – October 2017

Objectives

To create an understanding of general economic principles of cardiovascular catheterisation laboratory (CCL) operations and provide details that can be used immediately by CCL leaders.

Study design

SCAI/ACVP expert consensus statement.

Materials and methods

The authors review different revenue and expense streams. By reviewing the advantages and disadvantage of each stream, 4 strategies are proposed for optimising operating margins.

Key results

By reviewing the different revenue and expense streams, the authors find four different strategies to optimise operating margins. CCL managers should focus on:

1. CCL expense reduction, e.g. labour, costs of disposable items, and capital equipment costs. This depends on efficiency, identifying cost-effective materials, and negotiating prices downwards
2. Minimising non-CCL expenses under current CMS payment policies, CCL complications have a direct negative effect on hospital payments.
3. Maximising revenue, which requires accurate documentation and coding of procedures, comorbidities, and complications. Regardless of which payment system is reimbursing for services, any provider of services must ensure that what is owed is collected
4. Optimising quality and safety in the CCL, which requires that three measures of quality be addressed: structure, process, and outcome. The authors mention that fiscal considerations should never eclipse quality concerns.

Conclusions

- Understanding the economics of CCLs is essential for physicians, administrators and other CCL personnel
- An efficient CCL can provide superb cutting-edge patient care, excellent patient experience, employee workplace satisfaction and financial support for other hospital programmes