

Partners at Heart

Published in *ADVANCE for Imaging and Oncology Administrators*

May 9, 2007

Noninvasive cardiac imaging has advanced dramatically in recent years, with some experts suggesting it could replace cardiac catheterization as the test choice for many patients with possible coronary artery blockages. To deploy this technology, radiologists, cardiologists and hospitals have used various joint venture models, but they're still working through the best methods for image interpretation. Joint ventures must be structured carefully to comply with numerous laws, including the Stark Law, the federal antikickback statute, analogous state laws, Medicare reimbursement requirements and purchased diagnostic test limitations.

CONTACTS

For more information, contact your Katten attorney or any of the following attorneys.



W. Kenneth Davis, Jr.

+1.312.902.5573

ken.davis@katten.com



W. Kenneth Davis, Jr.

+1.312.902.5573

ken.davis@katten.com

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