

Wellcare (Louisiana) Musculoskeletal (MSK) Management Program

Provider Training Presented by: Gina Braswell OTR/L Senior Manager Provider Relations

February 2024



National Imaging Associates, Inc. (NIA)* Program Agenda

Our MSK Program

- Authorization Process
 - Other Program Components
- Provider Tools and Contact Information
- RadMD Demo
- Questions and Answers

^{*} Effective 1/20/2023, National Imaging Associates, Inc. is now a subsidiary of Evolent Health. Evolent Health and its affiliates and subsidiaries collectively referred to as "Evolent."

NIA Specialty Solutions

National Footprint / Experience

National Footprint

- Since 1995 delivering Medical Specialty Solutions; one of the *go-to* care partners in industry.
- 88 health plans/markets partnering with NIA for management of Medical Specialty Solutions.
- 32.79M national lives –
 participating in an NIA Medical
 Specialty Solutions Program
 nationally.
- Diverse populations Medicaid, Exchanges, Medicare, Commercial, FEP, Provider Entities.



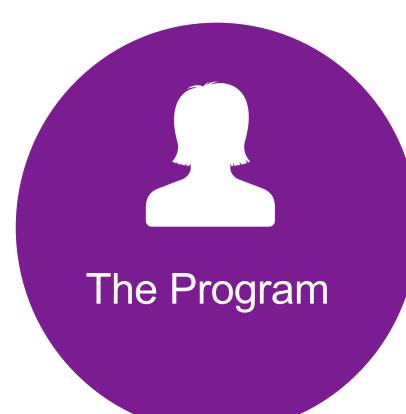
Commercial/Medicaid/Medicare Expertise/Insights

- 42 Commercial and 56 Medicaid plans/markets with NIA Medical Specialty Solutions in place.
- 10.66M Commercial and 20.51M
 Medicaid lives nationally in addition
 to 1.63M Medicare Advantage

Intensive Clinical Specialization & Breadth

- Specialized Physician Teams
 - 160+ actively practicing, licensed, board-certified physicians
 - 28 specialties and sub-specialties

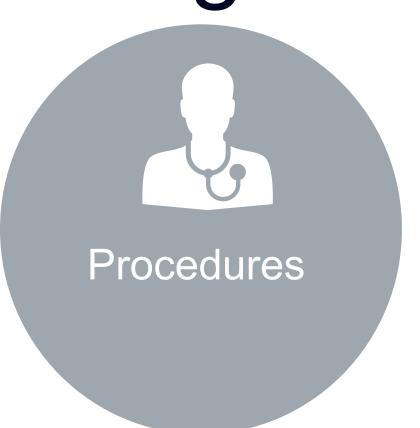
MSK Prior Authorization Program



 Wellcare will begin a prior authorization program through NIA for the management of MSK Services.



- Program start date: March 01, 2024
- Begin obtaining authorizations from NIA on March 01,2024 for services rendered on or after March 01, 2024



- Outpatient, interventional spine pain management (IPM) services (Effective 7/1/2021)
- Inpatient and outpatient hip, knee, shoulder, lumbar and cervical spine surgeries



- Medicare
- Surgery Center
- In Office
- Hospital

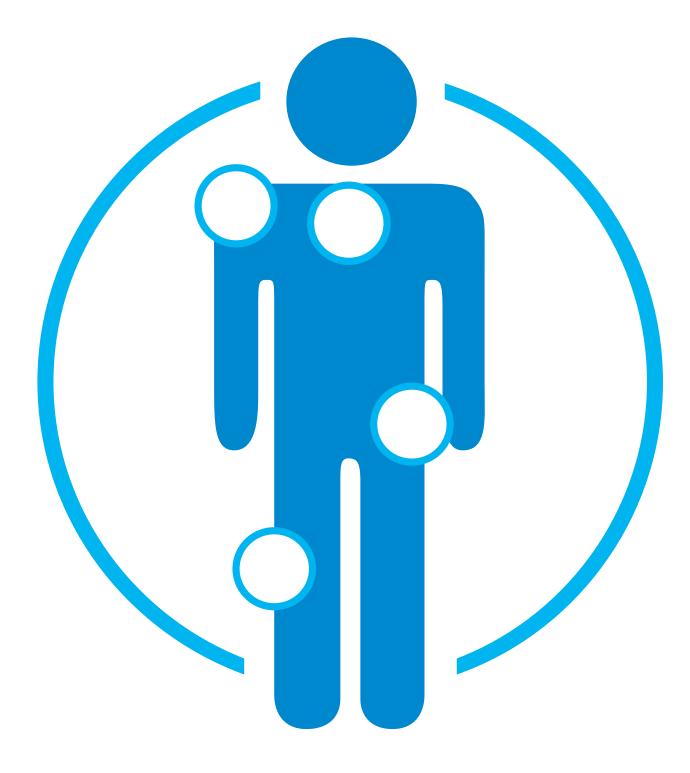


 NIA will manage services through Wellcare contractual relationships. Interventional Pain Management (IPM) (Effective 07/01/2021)



IPM Procedures Performed Outpatient or In-Office

- Spinal Epidural Injections
- Paravertebral Facet Joint Injections or Blocks
- Paravertebral Facet Joint Denervation (Radiofrequency (RF) Neurolysis)
- Sacroiliac Joint Injections
- Sympathetic Nerve Blocks (Effective 1/1/2023)





IPM Procedures Performed in these Settings are Excluded:

- Hospital Inpatient
- Observation Room
- Emergency Room/Urgent Care Facility

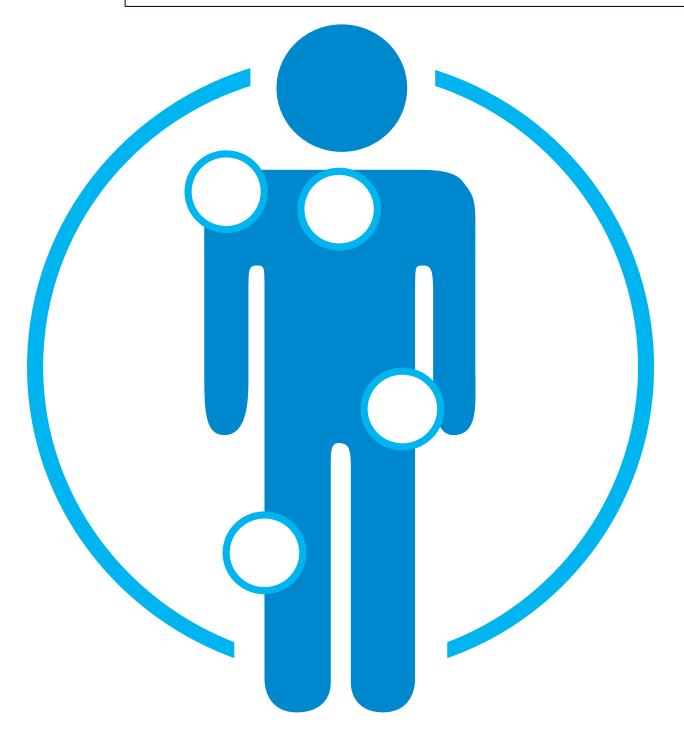
Wellcare network providers are the preferred providers for delivering MSK services to Wellcare members.

Lumbar and Cervical Spine Surgery

Lumbar and Cervical Spine Surgeries Performed Inpatient and Outpatient

- Lumbar Microdiscectomy
- Lumbar Decompression (Laminotomy, Laminectomy, Facetectomy & Foraminotomy)
- Lumbar Spine Fusion (Arthrodesis) With or Without Decompression – Single & Multiple Levels
- Cervical Anterior Decompression with Fusion –Single & Multiple Levels
- Cervical Posterior Decompression with Fusion –Single & Multiple Levels
- Cervical Posterior Decompression (without fusion)
- Cervical Artificial Disc Replacement Single & Two Levels
- Cervical Anterior Decompression (without fusion)
- Lumbar Artificial Disc Single & Two Levels
- Sacroiliac Joint Fusion

Procedures Performed on or after March 01,2024, Require Prior Authorization. NIA's Call Center and RadMD will open March 01, 2024.





Surgery Performed in this Setting is Excluded:

Emergency Surgery –
 admitted via the
 Emergency Room

Reconstructive spinal deformity surgery does not require prior authorization. However, NIA will monitor provider use of CPT codes 22800-22819.

Hip, Knee and Shoulder Surgery

Hip Surgeries Performed Inpatient and Outpatient

- Revision/Conversion Hip Arthroplasty
- Total Hip Arthroplasty/Resurfacing
- Femoroacetabular Impingement (FAI) Hip Surgery (includes CAM/pincer & labral repair)
- Hip Surgery Other (includes synovectomy, loose body removal, debridement, diagnostic hip arthroscopy, and extraarticular arthroscopy knee)

Knee Surgeries Performed Inpatient and Outpatient

- Revision Knee Arthroplasty
- Total Knee Arthroplasty (TKA)
- Partial-Unicompartmental Knee Arthroplasty (UKA)
- Knee Manipulation under Anesthesia (MUA)
- Knee Ligament Reconstruction/Repair
- Knee Meniscectomy/Meniscal Repair/Meniscal Transplant
- Knee Surgery Other (includes synovectomy, loose body removal, diagnostic knee arthroscopy, debridement with or without chondroplasty, lateral release/patellar realignment, articular cartilage restoration)



Shoulder Surgeries Performed Inpatient and Outpatient

- Revision Shoulder Arthroplasty
- Total/Reverse Shoulder Arthroplasty or Resurfacing
- Partial Shoulder Arthroplasty/Hemiarthroplasty
- Shoulder Rotator Cuff Repair
- Shoulder Labral Repair
- Frozen Shoulder Repair/Adhesive Capsulitis
- Shoulder Surgery Other (includes debridement, manipulation, decompression, tenotomy, tenodesis, synovectomy, claviculectomy, diagnostic shoulder arthroscopy)



Surgery Performed in this Setting is Excluded:

 Emergency Surgery – admitted via the Emergency Room

CPT Codes Requiring Prior Authorization (IPM)













Wellcare Medicare
(AL, AR, CT, IL, LA, MA, ME, MI, MO, MS,
NC, NH, NJ, NY, OH, RI, SC, TN, TX, VT, WA)
Utilization Review Matrix 2024

Outpatient Interventional Pain Management (IPM)

The matrix below contains all of the CPT 4 codes for which National Imaging Associates Inc. (NIA) authorizes on behalf of Wellcare.

NIA issues authorizations based on the primary CPT code and its allowable billed groupings. A procedure can be billed under any **one** of the given CPT codes for that allowable billed grouping as long as a valid authorization number has been issued within the validity period.

*Please note: IPM services rendered in an Emergency Room, Intraoperatively, or as a Hospital Inpatient are not managed by NIA.

IPM PROCEDURES					
Procedure Name	Primary CPT Code	Allowable Billed Groupings	Ancillary Procedures/Codes		
Authorization is provided at multiple CPT codes that can These are assumed to be pa	These codes do not require prior authorization. If the main procedure is approved, these codes are understood to be included and do not require precertification from the				
completed in combination, d authorization.	lo not requir	e a separate	*Please note: This is not an all-inclusive list of every possible ancillary code		
authorization. Cervical/Thoracic	62321	62320, 62321	*Please note: This is not an all-inclusive list of every		
authorization.		•	*Please note: This is not an all-inclusive list of every		
Cervical/Thoracic Interlaminar Epidural Cervical/Thoracic Transforaminal Epidural	62321	62320, 62321	*Please note: This is not an all-inclusive list of every		
Cervical/Thoracic Interlaminar Epidural Cervical/Thoracic Transforaminal Epidural Lumbar/Sacral	62321	62320, 62321	*Please note: This is not an all-inclusive list of every		
Cervical/Thoracic Interlaminar Epidural Cervical/Thoracic Transforaminal Epidural Lumbar/Sacral Interlaminar Epidural	62321 64479 62323	62320, 62321 64479, +64480 62322, 62323	*Please note: This is not an all-inclusive list of every		
Cervical/Thoracic Interlaminar Epidural Cervical/Thoracic Transforaminal Epidural Lumbar/Sacral	62321 64479	62320, 62321 64479, +64480	*Please note: This is not an all-inclusive list of every		

WellCare Medicare IPM Utilization Review Matrix 2024

Page 1 of 1

CPT Codes Requiring Prior Authorization (Joint Surgery)













Wellcare Utilization Review Matrix 2024 Musculoskeletal Surgery (Hip, Knee, and Shoulder)

HIP SURGERY PROCEDURES				
Procedure Name	Primary CPT Code	Allowable Billed Groupings	Additional Covered Procedures/Codes	
Authorization is provided at the <u>procedure</u> level. There are multiple CPT codes that can be associated with each procedure. These are assumed to be part of the primary request and, when completed in combination, do not require a separate authorization.				
Revision/Conversion Hip Arthroplasty	27134	27132, 27134, 27137, 27138		
Total Hip Arthroplasty/Resurfacing	27130	27130, S2118		
Femoroacetabular Impingement (FAI) Hip Surgery	29914	29914, 29915, 29916	Loose Body Removal: 29861 Chondroplasty: 29862 Synovectomy: 29863	
Hip Surgery - Other	29863	29860, 29861, 29862, 29863		

CPT Codes Requiring Prior Authorization (Spine Surgery)





Wellcare Utilization Review Matrix 2024 Musculoskeletal Surgery (Spine)

CERVICAL SPINE SURGERY PROCEDURES					
Procedure Name	Primary CPT Code	Allowable Billed Groupings	Additional Covered Procedures/Codes	Ancillary Procedures/Codes	
Authorization is provi procedure. These are a separate authorizat	These codes do not require prior authorization. If the main procedure is approved, these codes are understood to be included and do not require precertification from the health plan. *Please note: This is not an all-inclusive list of every possible ancillary code				
Cervical Anterior Decompression (without fusion)	63075	63075, +63076		Vertebral Corpectomy: 63081, +63082, 63300, 63304, +63308 Instrumentation: +22859	
Cervical ACDF - Anterior Cervical Decompression with Fusion - Single Level	22551	22548, 22551, 22554	Decompression: 63075, +63076 Removal of Artificial Disc: 22864	Vertebral Corpectomy: 63081, +63082, 63300, 63304, +63308 Instrumentation: +22845, 22853, 22854 Bone Grafts: +20930, +20931, +2093 +20937, +20938	

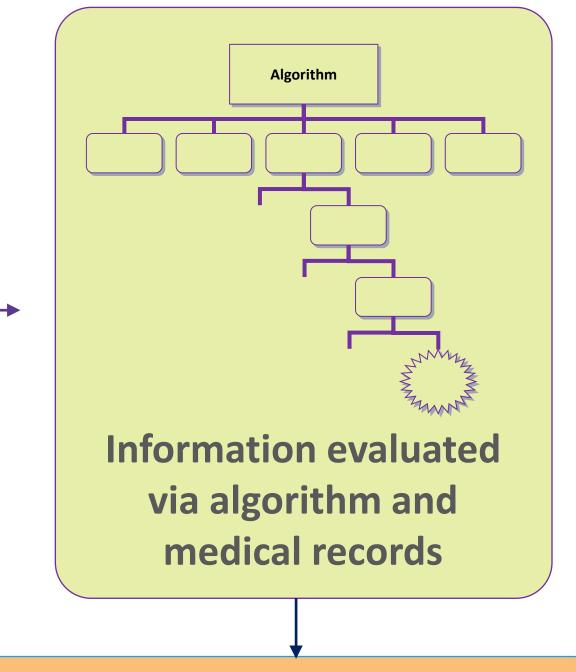
Prior Authorization Process Overview

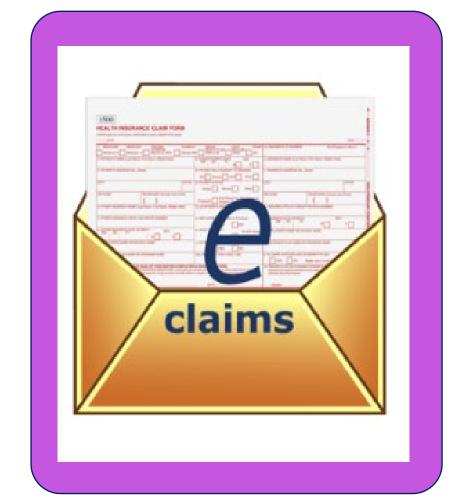


Ordering Physician is responsible for obtaining prior authorization.
MSK provider may be both ordering and rendering



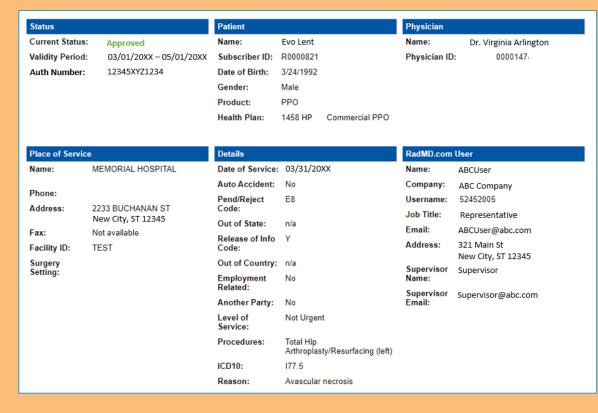




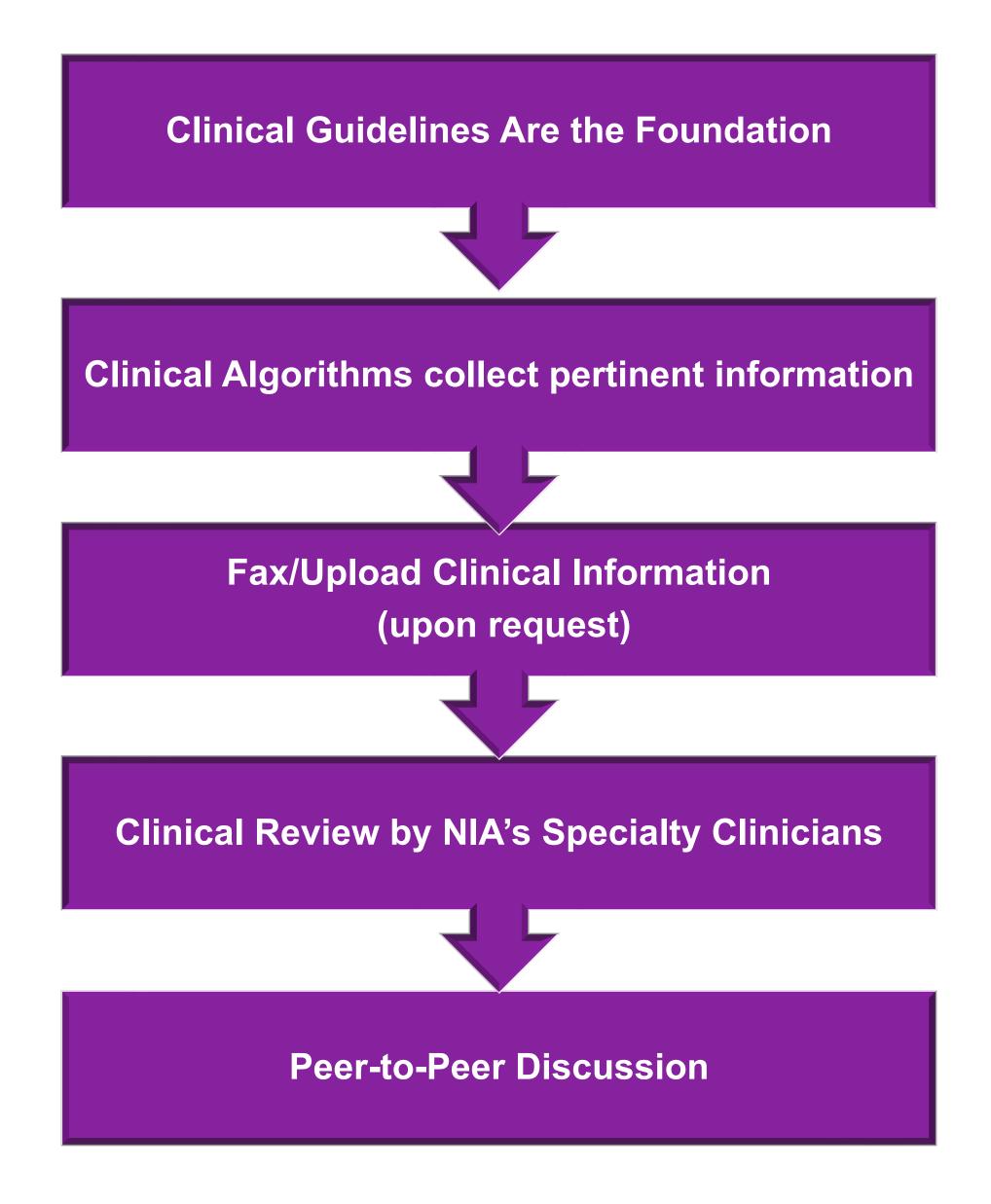




Rendering Provider verifies authorization was obtained and provides service



NIA's Clinical Foundation & Review



- Clinical guidelines were developed by practicing specialty physicians, through literature reviews and evidenced-based research. Guidelines are reviewed and mutually approved by Wellcare and NIA Medical Officers and clinical experts. Clinical Guidelines are available on RadMD.com
- Algorithms are a branching structure that changes depending upon the answer to each question.
- The member's clinical information/medical record will be required for validation of clinical criteria before an approval can be made.
- NIA has a specialized clinical team focused on MSK.
- Peer-to-peer discussions are offered for any request that does not meet medical necessity guidelines.
- Our goal ensure that members are receiving appropriate care.

Authorization for IPM

Special Information

- Every IPM procedure performed requires a prior authorization; NIA will not authorize a series of epidural injections.
- Bi-lateral IPM injections performed on the same date of service do not require a separate authorization. An authorization will cover bi-lateral as well as multiple levels on the same date of service. (Please refer to clinical guidelines for potential restrictions)
- Add on codes do not require separate authorization and are to be used in conjunction with the approved primary code for the service rendered.

IPM Clinical Checklist Reminders

IPM Documentation:



Conservative Treatment

• Frequently, specifics of active conservative treatment/non-operative treatment are not present in office notes. Details such as duration and frequency should be provided in order to ensure 6 weeks has been attempted within the past 6 months. Official physical therapy records do not need to be obtained but the provider should supply a summary of these details. Physical therapy is not the only means of active conservative treatment acceptable; physician directed home exercise programs as well as chiropractic care are among other examples of appropriate treatments.



Visual Analog Scale (VAS) Score and/or Functional Disability

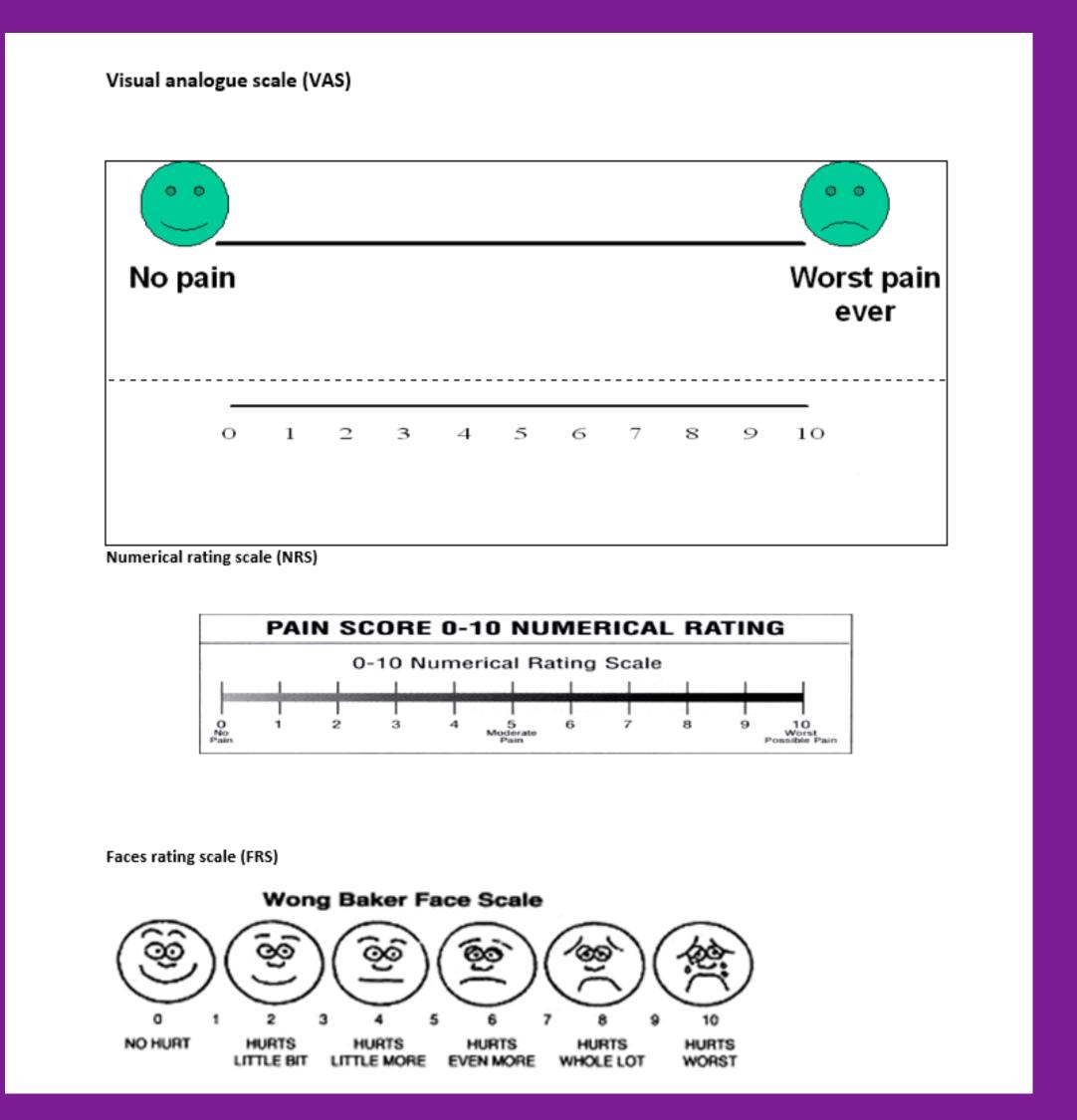
A VAS score is an acceptable method to relay intensity of pain. However, a description of functional disability is also accepted as a means for measuring pain (ie - noting that the member is no longer able to perform work duties, daily care, etc).



Follow Up To Prior Pain Management Procedures

• For repeat treatments, follow up is required in regard to what procedure was completed, how much and for how long relief was obtained, active participation in ongoing conservative treatment, and to what level the pain has returned. A follow up office visit is not required; documentation of telephone encounters with the member are acceptable to satisfy this requirement.

Visual Analogue Scale (VAS) and Faces Rating Scale (FRS)



Authorization for Surgery

Special Information

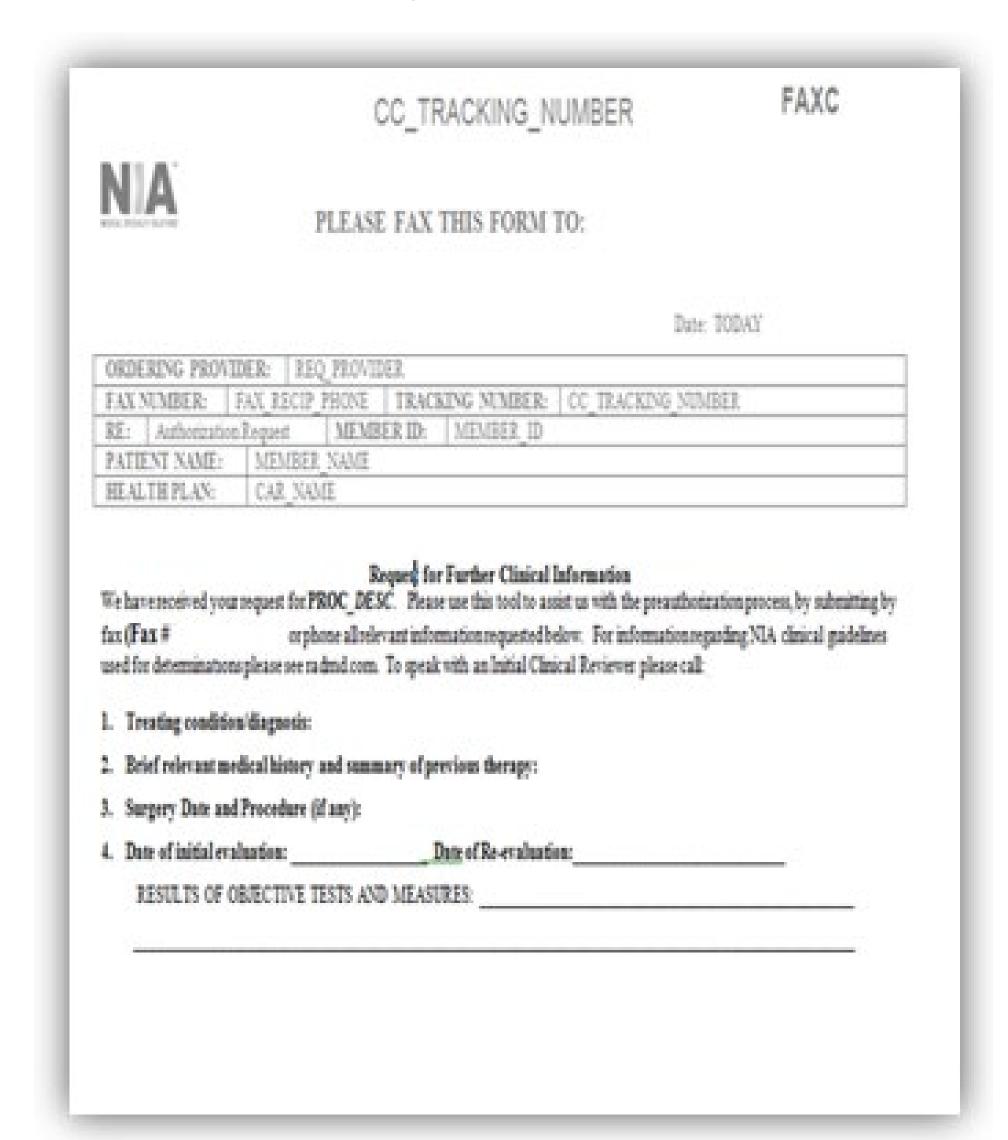
- Most surgeries require only one authorization request. NIA provides a list of surgery categories to choose from and the surgeon's office must select the most complex and invasive surgery being performed as the **primary** surgery.
 - Example 1: A lumbar fusion authorization includes decompression, instrumentation, etc.
 - Example 2: A knee ligament reconstruction includes meniscectomy, debridement, etc.
- Bilateral hip, knee, or shoulder surgeries require authorization for both the left and right side. ACDF and posterior cervical fusion require authorization for each procedure. These requests can be entered at the same time and will be reviewed concurrently.
- Inpatient admissions continue to be subject to concurrent review by Wellcare.
- Date of Service is required.
- The ordering physician must obtain prior authorization with NIA prior to performing the surgery/procedure.
- Facility admissions do not require a separate prior authorization. However, the facility should ensure that an NIA prior authorization has been obtained prior to scheduling the surgery/procedure.

Surgery Clinical Checklist Reminders

Surgery Documentation:

- Details regarding the member's symptoms and their onset/duration
- Physical exam findings
- Conservative treatment modalities with dates and duration (e.g., physical therapy, home exercise plan, injections, medications, activity modification)
- Diagnostic imaging results
- Ordering physician's surgical plan (including a discussion about the potential risks and benefits of the procedure) (BMI, smoking history, mental status for some surgeries)

NIA to Physician: Request for Clinical Information





A fax is sent to the provider detailing what clinical information that is needed, along with a fax coversheet.



We stress the need to provide the clinical information as quickly as possible so we can make a determination.



Determination timeframe begins after receipt of clinical information.



Failure to receive requested clinical information may result in non-certification.

Submitting Additional Clinical Information

- Records may be submitted:
 - Upload to https://www.RadMD.com
 - Fax using NIA coversheet
- Location of Fax Coversheets:
 - Can be printed from https://www.RadMD.com
 - Call 1-800-424-5388
- Use the case specific fax coversheet when faxing clinical information to NIA



Clinical Specialty Team: Focused on IPM and MSK



IPM Review

Initial clinical review performed by specially trained IPM nurses

Clinical review team will contact provider for additional clinical information

Anesthesiologists and pain management specialists conduct clinical reviews and peer-to-peer discussions on IPM requests



MSK Surgery Review

Initial clinical review performed by specialty trained surgery nurses

Surgery concierge team will contact provider for additional clinical information Orthopedic surgeons or neurosurgeons conduct clinical reviews and peer-to-peer discussions on surgery requests

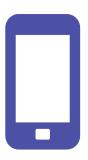
MSK Clinical Review Process

Physicians' Office Contacts NIA for Prior Authorization









NIA Initial Clinical Specialty Team Review

- Additional clinical information submitted and reviewed Procedure Approved
- Additional clinical not complete or inconclusive Escalate to Physician Review



Designated & Specialized Clinical MSK Team interacts with Provider Community.

2

Request Evaluated Based on Information Entered

Additional clinical information required



• NIA Physician approves case without peer-to-peer



Peer-to-peer outbound attempt made if case is not approvable

- NIA Physician approves case with peer-to-peer
- Ordering Physician withdraws case during peer-topeer
- Physician denies case based on medical criteria

Key NIA Differentiators

Generally, the turnaround time for completion of these requests is within two or three business days upon receipt of sufficient clinical information

Urgent/Expedited Authorization Process

- If an urgent clinical situation exists (outside of a hospital emergency room) during business hours, please call NIA immediately.
- The NIA website https://www.RadMD.com cannot be used for medically urgent or expedited prior authorization requests during business hours. Those requests must be processed by calling the NIA call center:
 - **1**-800-424-5388
- Turnaround time is within 1 calendar hours not to exceed 72 calendar hours.

Notification of Determination

Authorization Notification

Validity Period - Authorizations are valid for:

IPM

30 days from date of request

Surgical

- Inpatient 90 days from date of service
- Outpatient- SDC/Ambulatory 90 days from date of service
- The date of service that is selected at the time of the prior authorization request, will be used to determine the validity period. If the date of service changes, please contact NIA to update.

Denial Notification

- Notifications will include an explanation of what services have been denied and the clinical rationale for the denial.
- A peer-to-peer discussion can be initiated once the adverse determination has been made.
- Medicare re-opens are not available.
- In the event of a denial, providers are asked to follow the instructions provided in their denial letter.

IPM Points



Injections in all regions of spine are managed



Date of Service is required for all requests



Each IPM procedure must be prior authorized



No series of epidural injections



Specialty Nurses and Physicians review IPM requests

MSK Surgery Points – Lumbar/Cervical Spine Surgery



Inpatient and outpatient non-emergent surgeries



Spine Surgery is focused on lumbar and/or cervical spine surgeries.



For spinal surgeries, only one authorization request per surgery. For example, a Lumbar fusion authorization includes decompression, instrumentation, etc.



Reconstructive spinal deformity surgery does not require prior authorization. However, NIA will monitor provider use of CPT codes 22800-22819.

MSK Surgery Points – Hip, Knee and Shoulder Surgery



Bilateral hip, knee, or shoulder surgeries require authorization for both the left **and** right side. These requests can be entered at the same time and will be reviewed concurrently. ACDF and posterior cervical fusion require authorization for each procedure. These requests can be entered at the same time and will be reviewed concurrently.



Surgeries addressing the following are not included in the MSK program: trauma, amputation, fracture, active infection, pediatric conditions, congenital malformation, dysplasia (hip), palsy/plegia, osteochondritis dissecans (knee), osteotomy (knee), tumor, cyst, cancer, arthrodesis, girdle resection (hip), denervation (hip), joint dislocation, hemiarthroplasty (hip), hardware & foreign body removal.

MSK Surgery Points – All Surgeries



Specialized Orthopedic Surgeons or Neurosurgeons will review surgery requests. Inpatient admissions will continue to be subject to concurrent review by Wellcare.



The ordering physician must obtain prior authorization with NIA prior to performing the surgery/procedure.

Facility admissions do not require a separate prior authorization. However, the facility should ensure that an NIA prior authorization has been obtained prior to scheduling the surgery/procedure.



Authorizations are valid for 30 days from the date of the request for IPM and 90 days from the date of service for MSK. NIA must be notified of any changes to the date of service.

Provider Tools



RadMD Website RadMD.com

Available



24/7 (except during maintenance, performed every third Friday of the month from 12:00 AM – 3:00 AM ET)



Toll-Free Numbers 1-800-424-5388



Available

Monday - Friday 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM CST

- Request Authorization
- View Authorization Status
- View and manage Authorization Requests with other users
- Upload Additional Clinical Information
- View Requests for additional Information and Determination Letters
- View Clinical Guidelines
- View Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- View Other Educational Documents

Interactive Voice Response (IVR)
 System for authorization tracking

NIA Website

https://www.RadMD.com

RadMD Functionality varies by user:

- Ordering Provider's Office View and submit requests for authorization.
- Rendering Provider View approved, pended and in review authorizations for their facility.
- IPM providers are typically both the ordering and the rendering provider.

Online Tools Available on RadMD

- NIA's Clinical Guidelines
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Quick Reference Guides
- Checklists
- RadMD Quick Start Guide
- Claims/Utilization Matrices



RadMD New User Application Process - Ordering

Users are required to have their own separate usernames and passwords due to HIPAA regulations.

STEPS:

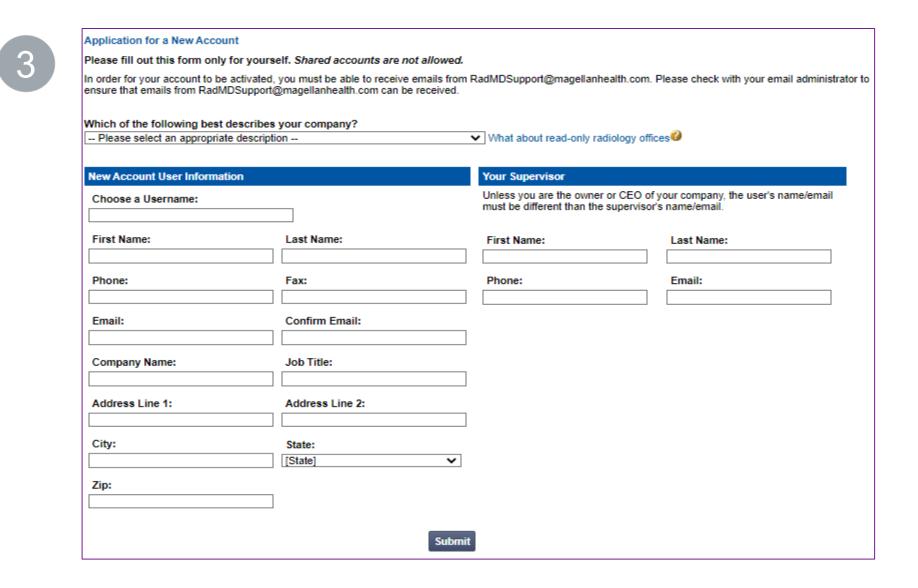
- 1. Click the "New User" button on the right side of the home page.
- 2. Select "Physician's office that orders procedures".
- 3. Complete the application and click "Submit".
- 4. Open email from NIA webmaster with new user password instructions.

NOTE: On subsequent visits to RadMD, click the "Sign In" button to proceed.

Offices that are both ordering and rendering procedures should request ordering provider access. This will allow you to request authorization on RadMD and see the status of requests.



-- Please Select an Appropriate Description -Physician's office that orders procedures
Facility/office where procedures are performed
Health Insurance company
Cancer Treatment Facility or Hospital that performs radiation oncology procedures
Physicians office that prescribes radiation oncology procedures
Physical Medicine Practitioner (PT, OT, ST, Chiro, etc.)



RadMD New User Application Process - Rendering

IMPORTANT

- Users are required to have their own separate username and password due to HIPAA regulations.
- Designate an "Administrator" for the facility who manages access for users.

STEPS:

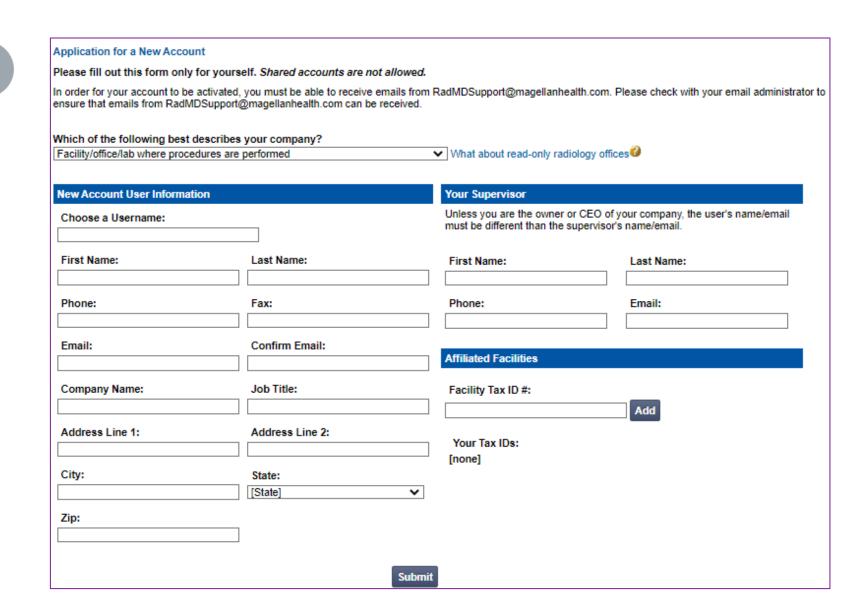
- 1. Click the "New User" button on the right side of the home page.
- 2. Select "Facility/office where procedures are performed"
- 3. Complete the application and click "Submit".
- 4. Open email from NIA webmaster with new user password instructions.

NOTE: On subsequent visits to RadMD, click the "Sign In" button to proceed.

If multiple staff members entering authorizations need to view approved, pended, and in-review authorization requests, they will each need to complete and submit a new user application. The account administrator is responsible for granting rendering access for each employee.

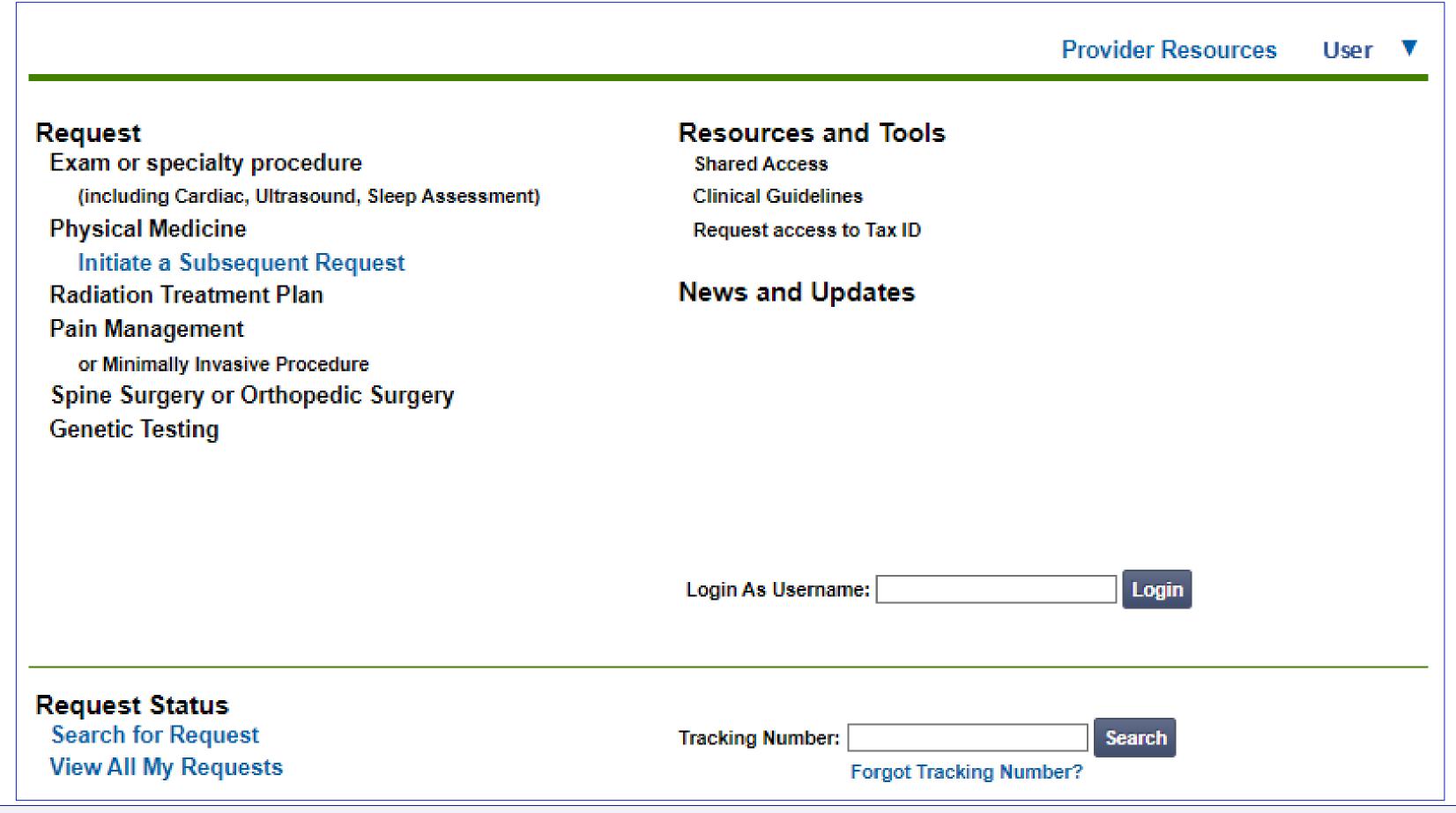


-- Please Select an Appropriate Description -Physician's office that orders procedures
Facility/office where procedures are performed
Health Insurance company
Cancer Treatment Facility or Hospital that performs radiation oncology procedures
Physicians office that prescribes radiation oncology procedures
Physical Medicine Practitioner (PT, OT, ST, Chiro, etc.)



Shared Access

NIA offers a **Shared Access** feature on our <u>RadMD.com</u> website. Shared Access allows ordering providers to view authorization requests initiated by other RadMD users within their practice.



If practice staff is unavailable for a period of time, access can be shared with other users in the practice. They will be able to view and manage the authorization requests initiated on RadMD.com, allowing them to communicate with members and facilitate treatment.

When to Contact NIA

Initiating or checking the status of an authorization request	 Website, https://www.RadMD.com 1-800-424-5388 Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System
Initiating a Peer-to-Peer Consultation	Call: 1-800-424-5388
Provider Service Line	RadMDSupport@evolent.comCall 1-800-327-0641
Provider Education requests or questions specific to NIA	 Gina Braswell OTR/L Senior Manager, Provider Relations 1-952-225-7526 GBraswell@evolent.com

RadMD Demonstration

Confidentiality Statement

The information presented in this presentation is confidential and expected to be used solely in support of the delivery of services to Wellcare members. By receipt of this presentation, each recipient agrees that the information contained herein will be kept confidential and that the information will not be photocopied, reproduced, or distributed to or disclosed to others at any time without the prior written consent of Wellcare and National Imaging Associates, Inc. (NIA).



Thanks!