



Talking Points

Cardiac Studies for Geisinger Health Plan¹ Members

Why do some cardiac-related studies now require pre-certification?

Pre-certification is required to minimize radiation exposure and promote non-invasive testing when appropriate. Cardiac CT Angiography (CCTA) technology is now covered under the cardiac-imaging management program because it is less invasive than tests such as cardiac catheterization. Other cardiac studies such as nuclear cardiology, echocardiography and stress echo are also part of the program.

When does the program begin?

The Health Plan program begins February 1, 2011. We will work with you and your office staff to ensure that you are prepared for the launch of this program.

How does the program work?

The Health Plan cardiac-imaging management program assesses imaging technologies used to diagnose and monitor patients with coronary artery disease in non-emergent cases. The program takes a comprehensive approach to determine if a recommended test is the proper next step in diagnosing coronary artery disease or if another test is more appropriate.

What cardiac-related imaging procedures are included in the Health Plan program?

The program includes:

- Nuclear cardiology/MPI
- Cardiac CT Angiography (CCTA)
- Echocardiography
- Stress Echo

What additional services are provided?

- Coverage of CCTA as a diagnostic tool for coronary artery disease
- Evidence-based algorithms to help identify the best diagnostic options for each patient
- Physician consultations with cardiologists for elective cardiac diagnostic imaging (chocardiography, echo stress, nuclear cardiology/MPI and CCTA)
- Access to a network of imaging providers who meet the highest technical and professional standards

1 Geisinger Health Plan, Geisinger Indemnity Insurance Company, and Geisinger Quality Options, Inc. shall be collectively referred to herein as "the Health Plan"

What do ordering providers need to do?

Ordering providers need to get pre-certification for:

- MRI/MRA
- CT/CTA
- CCTA
- PET Scans
- Diagnostic Nuclear Medicine
- Echocardiography
- Stress Echo

KEY PROVISIONS

- Emergency room imaging procedures do not require pre-certification.
- This program excludes the Health Plan self-funded membership.
- Providers are still required to obtain pre-certification for observation and inpatient imaging procedures by contacting the Health Plan.

Is there anything I should be doing before the program begins?

If you haven't done so already, please take a few minutes to register on www.RadMD.com. This portal gives you the most expedient way to process your pre-certification requests. You often will see immediate approvals without the need for telephone conversations.

What can a patient/member expect?

Physicians now have another option for diagnosing coronary artery disease, and that translates to achieving an accurate diagnosis as quickly as possible with the fewest number of tests and the least amount of radiation.

What kind of support is available for patients through the program?

The principles of the program are consumer engagement and support; ensuring patients have the information and tools to become more involved in their health care decisions. This includes printed and web-based materials, which will be available before and after the program launch.