

HealthAmerica Quick Reference Guide for Cardiac Catheterization



Beginning February 1, 2012, HealthAmerica will expand their cardiac program to require prior authorization of elective, non-emergent cardiac catheterizations.

The following services will **not** be impacted by this relationship:

- Inpatient cardiac catheterizations
- Emergency cardiac catheterizations

The physician ordering the cardiac catheterization is responsible for obtaining prior authorization for cardiac catheterization services. The rendering facility must ensure that prior authorization was obtained. As the ordering physician, it is recommended that you develop a process to ensure that the appropriate authorization number(s) has been obtained. Payment to the ordering physician and rendering facility will be denied for procedures performed without necessary authorization, and the member cannot be balance-billed for such procedures.

Procedures requiring Prior-Authorization under many HealthAmerica Plans

- Cardiac Catheterization (CPT codes 93452, 93453, 93454, 93455, 93456, 93457, 93458, 93459, 93460, 93461)

Emergency room, observation and inpatient procedures do not require prior authorization from NIA at this time. If an emergency clinical situation exists outside of a hospital emergency room, you should proceed with the examination and call NIA the same or next business day to proceed with the normal authorization process for cardiac catheterizations.

Prior Authorization Process

There are two ways to obtain prior authorization -- either through NIA's Web site at www.RadMD.com or by calling HealthAmerica at 1-800-755-1135.

The following information is required when requesting prior authorization for cardiac catheterizations. The ordering physician will be required to submit some of this information from the patient's chart via fax. If the requested information is not submitted within the specified timelines, the request will not be approved.

- In order to complete an authorization request, the patient's date of service is mandatory. If the date of service changes, you can update with NIA within the same authorization request.
- Type of catheterization planned:
 - Left heart
 - Right heart
 - Both left and right heart
- If any of the following will be included:
 - Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI) certain (can include PTCA/ Angioplasty, Stent, Atherectomy)
 - PCI possible
 - Septal closure

- **Reason for ordering the catheterization:**
 - Presentation of Coronary Artery Disease (CAD), with information about symptoms, angina, ischemia, etc.
 - Recent positive stress test
 - Coronary Calcium Score above 400
 - Hospital admission within the past 30 days for myocardial infarction
 - Heart failure within the past 2 weeks
 - Positive CCTA (coronary CT angiogram) in past 90 days
 - Pre-operative evaluation prior to valve surgery
 - If none of the above, provide other reason

- **Stress Test & CCTA Results:**
 - Whether results were negative, positive or indeterminate and actual test results
 - Extent of ischemia
 - Patient's exercise tolerance

Website Access

- It is the responsibility of the **physician ordering the cardiac catheterization** to access NIA's Website or call for prior authorization. Patient symptoms, past clinical history and prior treatment information will be required and should be available at the time of the contact.
- Website hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 5:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. EST and Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. EST. You can obtain prior authorization through NIA's Website at www.RadMD.com. To begin, you will need to obtain your own unique user name and password for each individual user in your office. Simply go to www.RadMD.com, click on the New User button and complete the application form.
- If you use RadMD for another Health Plan with NIA, you may use the same log on and password for HealthAmerica
- The NIA Website cannot be used for retrospective or expedited registration requests. Those requests must be processed by calling NIA.

**Access Provider Self-service at:
www.RadMD.com**

Telephone Access

- Call center hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST. The toll-free number is: 1-800-755-1135.

- NIA can accept multiple requests during one phone call.

Frequently Asked Questions

In this section NIA addresses commonly asked questions received from providers:

How will a prior authorization be processed?

Providers will follow the same process either on line via www.RadMD.com or by using the call center. The request for prior authorization will pend for clinical review and additional information will be requested from the patient's chart. At the end of the process, an authorization number will be given when the request is approved.

Why are HealthAmerica and NIA requiring prior authorization for cardiac catheterization procedures?

Analysis of elective, non-emergent outpatient cardiac catheterizations reveals that a significant number of catheterizations are not preceded by a diagnostic stress test within 90 days prior to the procedure, and many catheterizations did not result in a procedure or intervention after the diagnostic catheterization was performed. It is HealthAmerica's goal to ensure that patients receive the most appropriate procedure at the right time during their course of care.

Where can I find NIA's Clinical Guidelines?

NIA's Clinical Guidelines can be found on NIA's Website at www.RadMD.com. To preview these guidelines prior to the program start date of February 1, 2012:

- Go to <http://www.radMD.com>
- Click on the "Health Plans" selection on the Home page menu bar.
- Scroll down the page to locate your specific health plan name on the left side of the screen (Coventry/HealthAmerica); click once to open.
- Click on the link below "Preview of Clinical Guidelines" to open the pdf document.

Is prior authorization necessary if HealthAmerica is not the member's primary insurance?

Yes. HealthAmerica's prior authorization requirements apply when HealthAmerica is the primary and secondary insurer.

How long is an authorization number valid?

A prior authorization number will be valid for two weeks prior and two weeks post date of service. (*Calendar Days*).

Who can I contact at NIA for questions and or concerns?

To educate your staff on NIA procedures and to assist you with any provider issues or concern, contact your NIA Area Provider Relations Manager.

What will the member ID card look like? Will it have both NIA and HealthAmerica information on the card? Or will there be two cards?

There will only be one HealthAmerica ID card, and it will not include NIA identifying information. Providers should contact NIA at RadMD.com or the toll-free number at 1-800-755-1135.