

## Cardiac Imaging Frequently Asked Questions

### *Cardiac Studies for AmeriHealth Caritas of Louisiana Members*

#### **Why do some cardiac-related studies now require prior authorization?**

Prior authorization is required to minimize radiation exposure and promote the most appropriate test for the continuum of care.

#### **When does the program begin?**

The *AmeriHealth Caritas of Louisiana cardiac* program begins **June 27, 2014**. 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 cardiac imaging management program assesses imaging technologies used to diagnose and monitor patients with cardiac-related conditions in non-emergent cases. The program takes a comprehensive approach to determine if a recommended test is the proper next step in diagnosing cardiac-related conditions or if another test is more appropriate.

#### **What cardiac-related imaging procedures are included in AmeriHealth Caritas of Louisiana program?**

Prior authorization through NIA will be required for the following cardiac modalities:

- CCTA.
- Nuclear Cardiology/MPI.

#### **What additional services are provided?**

- Evidence-based algorithms to support the best diagnostic options for each patient.
- Consultations with cardiologists related to elective cardiac diagnostic imaging when peer-to-peer review is required.
- Quality assessment of imaging providers to ensure the highest technical and professional standards (This bullet would be used if we are privileging).

#### **What do ordering providers need to do?**

Ordering providers need to get prior authorization for non-emergent, outpatient:

- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)/Magnetic Resonance Angiography (MRA).
- Computed Tomography (CT)/Computed Tomography Angiography (CTA).
- CCTA.
- Nuclear cardiology/MPI.

**Who will administer clinical oversight of the cardiac program?**

Board-certified cardiologists worked with community-based physicians to develop evidence-based clinical guidelines and algorithms that determine the best available diagnostic pathway). These board-certified cardiologists also consult with referring physicians to apply these guidelines and algorithms to a patient's specific symptoms and medical history. By determining the most appropriate clinical imaging protocol for each patient, we can reduce duplicative testing, minimize patient radiation exposure, avoid indication drift, shorten diagnosis time, and improve the overall health care experience.

**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](http://www.RadMD.com). This portal gives you the most expedient way to process your imaging requests.

**What happens if I need to have an inpatient or emergent cardiac procedure performed?**

AmeriHealth Caritas of Louisiana will continue to manage inpatient and emergency cardiac procedures.

**KEY PROVISIONS**

- Emergency room and inpatient imaging procedures do not require prior authorization.