

## AmeriHealth Caritas of Louisiana Quick Reference Guide for Imaging Facilities

*Effective: June 27, 2014*

AmeriHealth Caritas of Louisiana has selected National Imaging Associates, Inc. (NIA) to implement a radiology benefit management program for outpatient advanced imaging services for AmeriHealth Caritas of Louisiana members. This program is consistent with industry-wide efforts to both ensure clinically appropriate care and manage the increasing utilization of these services. NIA will manage the outpatient imaging services listed below through AmeriHealth Caritas of Louisiana's existing contractual relationships.

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

- Inpatient advanced imaging services.
- Emergency room imaging services.
- Observation imaging services.
- AmeriHealth Caritas of Louisiana will continue to perform prior authorization of coverage for interventional imaging procedures (even those that utilize MR/CT technology).

### Prior Authorization Implementation Recommendations

As a provider of diagnostic imaging services that require prior authorization, it is essential that you develop a process to ensure that the appropriate authorization number(s) has been obtained.

It is the responsibility of the rendering facility or physician to ensure that prior authorization was obtained, when necessary. Payment will be denied for procedures performed without a prior authorization, and the member cannot be balance-billed for such procedures.

### Procedures Requiring Prior Authorization Under AmeriHealth Caritas of Louisiana \*

- CT/CTA.
- MRI/MRA.
- CCTA.
- Nuclear Cardiology/MPI.

\*A separate prior authorization number is required for each procedure.

Emergency room, observation and inpatient imaging procedures do not require prior authorization from NIA. If an urgent/emergent clinical situation exists outside of a hospital emergency room, please contact NIA immediately with the appropriate clinical information for an expedited review. The number to call to obtain a prior authorization is **1-800-424-4897**.

Please refer to NIA's website [www.RadMD.com](http://www.RadMD.com) to obtain the AmeriHealth Caritas of Louisiana/NIA Billable CPT® Codes Claim Resolution Matrix for all of the CPT-4 codes that NIA authorizes on behalf of AmeriHealth Caritas of Louisiana.

The following recommendations are offered for your review and consideration in developing effective procedures for your facility. These recommendations are for informational purposes only and are not policies of AmeriHealth Caritas of Louisiana or NIA.

### **Prior Authorization Recommendations**

To ensure that authorization numbers have been obtained, the following recommendations should be considered.

- Communicate to all personnel involved in outpatient scheduling that prior authorization is required for the above procedures under AmeriHealth Caritas of Louisiana.
- If a physician office calls to schedule a patient for a procedure requiring prior authorization, request the authorization number.
- If the referring physician has not obtained prior authorization when required, inform the physician of this requirement and advise him/her to obtain an authorization by visiting NIA's website at **www.RadMD.com**, or by calling **1-800-424-4897**. You may elect to institute a time period in which to obtain the prior authorization number, e.g., one business day.
- If a patient calls to schedule an appointment for a procedure that requires authorization, and does not have the authorization number, the patient should be directed back to the referring physician who ordered the examination.
- Authorizations are valid for 30 days from the date of request.

### **Checking Authorizations**

You can check on the status of patients' authorizations quickly and easily by going to the NIA website, **www.RadMD.com**. After obtaining a secure password sign-in to select, the **"My Exam Requests"** tab to view all outstanding authorizations.

#### **Quick Contacts**

- Website: [www.RadMD.com](http://www.RadMD.com)
- Toll Free Phone Number: 1-800-424-4897

Please check both sides of the member's identification card carefully to determine whether an authorization is required.

### **Submitting Claims**

Claims will continue to go directly to AmeriHealth Caritas of Louisiana. Please send your claims for imaging procedures to the following address:

AmeriHealth Caritas of Louisiana  
Claims Processing:  
P. O. Box 7322  
London, KY 40742

Providers are encouraged to use EDI claims submission.

AmeriHealth Caritas of Louisiana payor ID number is 27357

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

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

## **Where can I find NIA's Guidelines for Clinical Use of Diagnostic Imaging Examinations?**

NIA's Guidelines for Clinical Use of Diagnostic Imaging Examinations can be found on NIA's website at [www.RadMD.com](http://www.RadMD.com).

## **Is prior authorization necessary if AmeriHealth Caritas of Louisiana is not the member's primary insurance?**

Yes.

## **What does the NIA authorization number look like?**

The NIA authorization number consists of eight or nine alpha/numeric characters (e.g., 1234X567). In some cases, the ordering physician may instead receive an NIA tracking number (not the same as an authorization number) if the physician's authorization request is not approved at the time of initial contact. Physicians can use either number to track the status of their request on the RadMD website or via our Interactive Voice Response telephone system.

## **Who can I contact at NIA for questions, complaints, and appeals, etc.?**

Please use the following NIA contacts by type of issue:

- For privileging application or process, contact NIA's Provider Assessment Department toll-free at **1-888-972-9642** or at [RADPrivilege@Magellanhealth.com](mailto:RADPrivilege@Magellanhealth.com).
- To educate your staff on NIA procedures and to assist you with any provider issues or concerns, contact your NIA Area Provider Relations Manager.
- Preauthorization and claims payment complaints/appeals: Follow the instructions on your non-authorization letter or Explanation of Benefit (EOB)/Explanation of Payment (EOP) notification.

## **How will referring/ordering physicians know who NIA is?**

AmeriHealth Caritas of Louisiana sends orientation materials to referring providers. AmeriHealth Caritas of Louisiana and NIA are also coordinating additional outreach and orientation activities.

## **How will NIA direct members to my facility?**

NIA actively promotes utilization of quality, cost-effective imaging providers by providing patients and referring physicians' with critical information online and at the point of ordering. Members will soon be able to access information on a number of quality (e.g., accreditations, certifications) and convenience indicators (e.g., hours of operation, handicap access, parking) on NIA's website.

Our goal is to assist patients and referring physicians in selecting quality, convenient and cost-effective care for each individual.

## **What will the member ID card look like? Will it have both NIA and AmeriHealth Caritas of Louisiana information on the card? Or will there be two cards?**

The AmeriHealth Caritas of Louisiana member ID card will not have NIA identifying information on it. AmeriHealth Caritas of Louisiana will redirect calls to NIA for advanced imaging services.