Florida Blue Cardiac Studies
Frequently Asked Questions

Magellan Healthcare was selected by Florida Blue to manage a radiology benefit management program for outpatient advanced imaging services on their behalf. Effective December 1, 2016, Florida Blue will add stress echocardiography to the program.

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 did the program begin?
The Florida Blue program for stress echocardiography begins December 1, 2016 for their BlueCare® HMO (Health Options, Inc.), BlueOptionsSM (Network Blue), BlueSelect (BlueSelect network), and BlueMedicareSM HMO and PPO products. Prior-authorization for CCTA and Myocardial Perfusion Imaging (MPI) services are already in place.

How does the program work?
It 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 a proper next step in diagnosing cardiac-related conditions, or if another test is appropriate.

What cardiac-related imaging procedures are included in the Florida Blue program?
Prior authorization through Magellan Healthcare1 is required for the following cardiac modalities:
- CCTA
- Myocardial perfusion imaging (MPI)
- Stress echocardiography effective December 1, 2016

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

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
- Positron emission tomography (PET)

1National Imaging Associates, Inc. is a subsidiary of Magellan Healthcare, Inc.
- Stress echocardiography
- Myocardial perfusion imaging (MPI)
- Muga scan

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 do before the program begins?
If you haven’t done so already, please take a few minutes to register on www.RadMD.com. This portal is the fastest way to process your imaging requests.

What happens if I need to have an inpatient or emergent cardiac procedure performed?
Florida Blue will continue to manage inpatient and emergency cardiac procedures as is done today.

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