



Peach State Health Plan Quick Reference Guide for Imaging Facilities

Effective August 2, 2010

Peach State Health Plan, a Centene Health Plan selected National Imaging Associates, Inc. (NIA) to implement a radiology benefit management program for outpatient advanced imaging services. This program is consistent with industry-wide efforts to both ensure clinically appropriate care and manage the increasing utilization of these services. NIA manages non-emergent outpatient imaging services for Peach State Health Plan membership through the NIA network of Free-Standing Imaging Facilities and Peach State Health Plan in-office providers and hospitals.

The following services will not be impacted by this relationship:

- Inpatient advanced imaging services
- Emergency Room imaging services
- Observation imaging services
- Peach State Health Plan will continue to perform prior authorization of coverage for interventional radiology 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 Peach State Health Plan*

- CT/CTA
- MRI/MRA
- PET Scan
- CCTA

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

Emergency room, observation and inpatient imaging procedures do not require prior authorization from NIA. If an emergency 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 1-800-704-1483.

Please refer to the NIA website to obtain the Peach State Health Plan/NIA Utilization Review Matrix for all of the CPT-4 codes that NIA authorizes on behalf of Peach State Health Plan.

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 Peach State Health Plan 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 Peach State Health Plan.
- 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 the NIA website at www.RadMD.com, or by calling 1-800-704-1483. 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 60 days from the date of the 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
- Toll Free Phone Number: 1-800-704-1483

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 Peach State Health Plan. Please send your claims for imaging procedures to the following address:

Peach State Health Plan
P.O. Box 3030
Farmington, MO 63640-3812

Providers are encouraged to use EDI claims submission. Electronic Filing Contact:

Peach State Health Plan
C/o Centene EDI Department
(800) 225-2573, Ext. 25525
Or by e-mail at EDI@centene.com

Frequently Asked Questions

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

Can I see a copy of the NIA provider handbook policies as I prepare to sign a participating provider agreement with NIA?

Yes. You can obtain a copy of the NIA Imaging Provider Handbook by calling the NIA Radiology Network Services team at 800-327-0641. Also, you can visit the NIA Web site at www.RadMD.com to view the handbook online.

The rates I currently have do not represent all of the services we provide or represent more services than we provide. Who can I contact to change this?

NIA sends contracts to providers whom we believe at the start of a relationship are most likely to fit the entity's business and clinical model. To that end, NIA sends professional rates to practitioners or groups who read films, technical imaging rates to hospitals and both to freestanding facilities. If the rates we have sent to you do not include the right mix of these categories, please contact your Area Contract Manager.

How does NIA establish its provider reimbursement rates?

NIA performs an analysis of a number of payers to establish a competitive rate while giving participating providers the opportunity for enhanced patient volume resulting from an ever-growing number of patients insured by some of the nation's largest health plans.

Where can I find the NIA Guidelines for Clinical Use of Diagnostic Imaging Examinations?

The NIA Guidelines for Clinical Use of Diagnostic Imaging Examinations can be found on NIA's website at www.RadMD.com.

Is prior authorization necessary if Peach State Health Plan is not the member's primary insurance?

Authorization is required if Peach State Health Plan is either the primary or secondary insurer.

What does the NIA authorization number look like?

The NIA authorization number consists of 8 or 9 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 Web site 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:

- Provider contracting questions: Contact your NIA Area Contract Manager or the Radiology Network Services line at 800-327-0641.
- To educate your staff on NIA procedures and to assist you with any provider issues or concerns, contact your NIA Area Provider Relations Manager.
- Provider credentialing appeals: Send to NIA – Radiology Network Services, MO61, 14100 Magellan Plaza, Maryland Heights, MO 63043; fax number: 314-292-1151.
- Preauthorization and claims payment complaints/appeals: Follow the instructions on your non-authorization letter or Explanation of Benefit (EOB)/Explanation of Payment (EOP) notification.
- Other questions, complaints and appeals not related to authorizations or claims: Contact the NIA Radiology Network Services line at 800-327-0641.

How will referring/ordering physicians know who NIA is?

NIA has posted training/education materials on www.RadMD.com for referring providers. Peach State Health Plan and NIA also coordinate 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 the NIA website.

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

Will out-of-area Peach State Health Plan members be able to use the NIA network when traveling out of state?

Yes, depending on their benefit plan.

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

The Peach State Health Plan member ID card will not have NIA identifying information on it. Peach State Health Plan will redirect calls to NIA for advanced imaging services.