

Tip Sheet: Hip, Knee, Shoulder & Spine Surgery Combo Requests - HMSA

“Combo” requests allow two procedures to be requested together at intake. These are procedures that will be done on the **same** date of service. By requesting them together on intake as a combo, it will ensure that they stay together for the duration of the review process.

Surgery combo requests are limited to 2 procedures on the same date of service.

- Please pay attention to the **(left)** or **(right)** options when selecting a procedure
- Combo requests should be **RARE** – most of the main surgery authorizations include all associated procedures

Examples of **Correct** Combo Requests:

- Bilateral Total Knee Arthroplasty (or bilateral Total Hip Arthroplasty)
- Total Knee Arthroplasty and Partial Knee Arthroplasty (if the surgeon plans to decide intraoperatively)
- Shoulder Rotator Cuff Repair and Shoulder Labral Repair
- ACDF and Posterior Cervical Fusion (being performed on the same date of service)
- ACDF and Cervical Artificial Disc Replacement (hybrid surgery)

Examples of **INCORRECT** Combo Requests:

- Knee Ligament Reconstruction & Meniscectomy – ligament reconstruction includes all of the meniscectomy CPT codes (as well as other common associated procedures like chondroplasty)
- Shoulder Rotator Cuff Repair & Shoulder Surgery Other – rotator cuff repair includes the CPT codes for biceps tenodesis, distal clavicle excision, subacromial decompression, etc.
- Lumbar Decompression & Microdiscectomy – decompression includes all of the microdiscectomy CPT codes
- Multiple Level Lumbar Fusion & Single Level Lumbar Fusion – the multiple-level request includes all of the single-level CPT codes

If the desired surgery name is not present, NIA might not manage that procedure for this patient. Please refer to the coding matrix and contact the health plan for pre-authorization for any CPT codes not on the surgery matrix.

Common surgeries that are NOT managed by NIA

Hip/Knee/Shoulder: hardware removal, fracture repair, I&D of infections, excision of lumps/masses/cysts, bursectomy, repair of ruptured patellar or quadriceps tendon

Spine: thoracic spine surgery, deformity surgery