



Ambetter from Sunshine Health Physical Medicine Prior Authorization Quick Reference Guide for Providers

**Effective January 1, 2021
 (Revised July 25, 2023)**

National Imaging Associates, Inc. (NIA) provides utilization management for outpatient rehabilitative and habilitative physical medicine services (physical, occupational and speech therapy) on behalf of Ambetter from Sunshine Health.

All providers will be required to obtain prior authorizations for any physical medicine services rendered on or after January 1, 2021

Prior Authorization

Providers must obtain prior authorization for services listed below within five business days from providing these services.

Services Requiring Authorization:	Outpatient Therapy Services for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Therapy • Speech Therapy • Occupational Therapy
The review is focused on therapy services performed in the following settings:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outpatient Office • Outpatient Hospital • Home Health

Therapy provided in hospital ER, inpatient and observation status, acute rehab hospital inpatient and inpatient and outpatient skilled nursing facility settings are excluded from this program.

- CPT codes billed for physical, occupational and speech therapy for evaluations do not require an authorization for participating providers. However, all other billed codes, even if performed on the same date as the evaluation date, will require prior authorization.
- Home health providers submitting claims using codes other than designated Evaluation CPT Codes should request an authorization within the timeframe listed above. The authorization can be backdated to cover these services.

Submitting Prior Authorization Requests

- Providers are encouraged to utilize www.RadMD.com to request prior authorization for physical medicine services. If a provider is unable to use RadMD, they may call 1-800-424-4909.

Information Needed to Submit Prior Authorization Requests

To expedite the prior authorization process, please have the appropriate information ready before logging into NIA's website www.RadMD.com or calling NIA's call center.

- Name, address and TIN of the facility that will be used for billing the service.
- Member name, ID number and date of birth
- Requesting/rendering provider type - PT, OT, ST
- Name of office or facility where the service will be performed
- Date of initial evaluation
- ICD-10 code(s)
- Details justifying therapy
 - Initial evaluation or re-evaluation findings
 - Past medical history
 - Patient symptoms
 - Prior treatment received for the same condition
 - Functional outcome/standardized test scores
 - Baseline functional status and Impairments
 - Objective tests and measures
 - Specific functional goals
 - Interventions to be utilized
 - Plan of care/treatment plan

Website Access

- **To get started**, go to www.RadMD.com, click the “New User” button and submit a RadMD application for new account by selecting “**Physical Medicine Practitioner.**”
- You can request prior authorization at www.RadMD.com by clicking the “**Request Physical Medicine**” link, which is part of your main menu options.
- Additional services on an existing authorization can be requested using the “**Initiate a Subsequent Request**” link using RadMD.
- RadMD is available 24/7, except when maintenance is performed once every other week after business hours.
- **Pended requests:** If you are requesting prior authorizations through the NIA website and your request pends, you will receive a tracking number. You will then be required to submit additional clinical information to complete the process.
- **Authorizations status:** You can check the status of prior authorizations quickly and easily by using the “View Request Status” link on RadMD's main menu. In addition to viewing clinical documentation received by NIA, users can also view links to case-specific communication to include requests for additional information and determination letters.

- **The “Track an Authorization”** feature allows users who did not submit the original request to view the status of an authorization, as well as upload clinical information. This option is also available as a part of your main menu options using the “Search by Tracking Number” feature. A tracking number is required with this feature.
- **Medically Urgent/Expedited:** The NIA website, www.RadMD.com, cannot be used for medically urgent or expedited prior authorization requests that occur during business hours. Those requests must be processed by calling NIA at 1-800-424-4909.
- Payment will be denied for physical medicine procedures performed without a necessary prior authorization, and the member cannot be balance-billed for such services.

Telephone Access

- Call center hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern. You may obtain a prior authorization request by calling NIA at 1-800-424-4909.
- If you have questions or need more information about this physical medicine prior authorization program, you may contact the NIA Provider Service Line at 1-800-327-0641.

Submitting Claims

- Please continue to submit claims to Ambetter from Sunshine Health as you currently do today.
- We strongly encourage EDI claims submission.

Important Notes

- **The authorization number or request ID** consists of at least 11 alpha-numeric characters (i.e., 12345ABC123). In some cases, the ordering provider may instead receive a tracking number (i.e., 123456789) if the provider’s authorization request is not approved at the time of initial contact.
- **Multiple Physical Medicine Requests:** NIA can accept multiple requests on RadMD or during one phone call.
- **Clinical Guidelines:** NIA issues authorizations in accordance with the NIA Clinical Guidelines and Milliman Care Guidelines for physical medicine. A link to these clinical guidelines can be found on www.RadMD.com under “Online Tools/Clinical Guidelines.” NIA Guidelines for physical medicine services are based on evidence-based research, generally accepted industry standards and best practice guidelines established by the corresponding national organizations.
- **Complaints/Appeals:** For prior authorization complaints/appeals, please follow the instructions on your denial letter or Explanation of Payment (EOP).
- **Member Eligibility:** To verify member eligibility, including benefit information, please call the Ambetter from Sunshine Health Provider Services at 1-877-687-1169.

- **A prior authorization number is not a guarantee of payment.** Whether the requested service is covered is subject to all of the terms and conditions of the member's benefit plan, including, but not limited to, member eligibility, benefit coverage at the time services are provided and any pre-existing condition exclusions referenced in the member's benefit plan.
- **Provider Relations Assistance:** To educate your staff on NIA procedures and assist you with any provider issues or concerns, contact your Provider Relations representative at Ambetter from Sunshine Health or NIA.