Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina Radiation Oncology Solutions Training

Provider Training Presented by: Priscilla W. Singleton





National Imaging Associates, Inc. (NIA) Program Agenda 🗡







- Authorization Process
- Other Program Components
- Provider Tools and Contact Information
- RadMD Demo
- Questions and Answers



NIA Specialty Solutions

National Footprint / Experience

National Footprint

- Since 1995 delivering Medical Specialty Solutions; one of the *goto* care partners in industry.
- 88 health plans/markets partnering with NIA for management of Medical Specialty Solutions.
- 32.79M national lives –
 participating in an NIA Medical
 Specialty Solutions Program
 nationally.
- Diverse populations Medicaid, Exchanges, Medicare, Commercial, FEP, Provider Entities.





Commercial/Medicaid/Medicare Expertise/Insights

- **42 Commercial and 56 Medicaid**plans/markets with NIA Medical Specialty
 Solutions in place.
- 10.66M Commercial and 20.51M
 Medicaid lives nationally in addition to
 1.63M Medicare Advantage

Intensive Clinical Specialization & Breadth

- Specialized Physician Teams
 - 160+ actively practicing, licensed, board-certified physicians
 - 28 specialties and sub-specialties



NIA's Prior Authorization Program



Program start date:January 1, 2015



- Exchange Programs
- Commercial Programs



NIA uses the Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina network of **Radiation Oncologists** and Cancer Treatment Facilities as its preferred providers for delivering **Radiation Oncology** Solutions to Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina members throughout South Carolina.



Radiation Oncology Program Overview



Our Program Focus

Appropriate Use

Based on national clinical guidelines, manage the appropriate use of modalities and ensure radiation treatment is delivered safely and does not exceed optimal fractions (dose)

Clinical/Provider Variation

Minimize clinical/provider variation through prior authorization process

Billing/Coding

Ensure appropriate billing and coding activities throughout the patient's course of radiation therapy

1

NIA Radiation Oncology Management Services

Management of patient radiation therapy treatment delivered in an outpatient setting

Program Covers All Cancers & Conditions, including:

- 2
- Breast
- Colon/Rectal
- Lung

- Prostate
- Brain/Spine
- Bone

- Metastatic
- Head/Neck
- Other Cancers

Radiation Therapy Modalities, including: Brachytherapy (Low-dose Intensity

- rate (LDR), High-dose rate (HDR) and Electronic
 - 2D conventional radiation therapy (2D)
 - 3D conformal radiation therapy (3D-CRT)

- Intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT)
- Stereotactic Radiation Therapy (SRS and SBRT)
- Proton beam radiation therapy (PBT)
- Intraoperative Radiation Therapy (IORT)
- Neutron Beam
- Hyperthermia

4

Treatment Plans for all Radiation Therapies Delivered or Treatment Modality and Number of Treatments/Fractions for the course of Treatment, including:

- Planning
- Physics
- Simulation
- Management

- Devices
- Delivery
- Dosimetry

- Guidance
- Isodose
- Port



List of CPT Procedure Codes Requiring Prior Authorization



Review Claims/Utilization Review Matrix to determine CPT codes managed by NIA.



CPT Codes and their Allowable Billable Groupings.



Located on RadMD.com.



Defer to Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina's Policies for Procedures not on Claims/Utilization Review Matrix.









Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina Radiation Oncology Utilization Review Matrix 2023

The matrix below contains all of the CPT 4 codes for which National Imaging Associates, Inc. (NIA) manages for the Radiation Oncology program on behalf of Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina. This matrix is designed to assist in the resolution of claims adjudication and claims questions related to those services authorized by NIA. The "Allowable Billed Groupings" is meant to outline that if a given procedure is authorized, that any one of the listed procedure codes could be submitted on a claim representing that service. This assumes that the member is eligible at the time of the service, that appropriate rebundling rules are applied, that the claim includes an appropriate diagnosis code for the CPT code and that the service is performed within the validity period.

If a family of CPT codes is not listed in this matrix, an exact match is required between the authorized CPT code and the billed CPT code. If the exact match does not occur, the charge should be adjudicated accordingly.

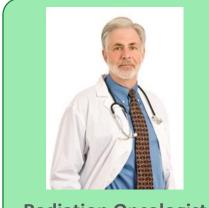
**Please note: Radiation services that are initiated while the patient is in a hospital inpatient setting are not managed by NIA. Services initiated before the patient's coverage by this plan or before the start date of this program are also not managed by NIA. Please complete the Radiation Therapy Treatment Notification/Transitional form on RadMD for

CPT Codes Requiring Authorization	Description	Allowable Billed Groupings
19296	Brachytherapy Applicator Insertion (Breast Surgeon)	19296, 19297,19298 ¹
19297	Brachytherapy Applicator Insertion (Breast Surgeon)	19296, 19297,19298
19298	Brachytherapy Applicator Insertion (Breast Surgeon)	19296, 19297,19298
77014	CT Guidance - Planning & IGRT	77387, G6001, G6002, 77014, G6017
77280	Simulation - Set Up Simple or Verification	77280
77285	Simulation - Set Up Complex/ Interm	77285, 77290
77290	Simulation - Set Up Complex/ Interm	77285, 77290
77295	3D Simulation Plan	77295
77300	Dosimetry - Calculation	77300
77301	IMRT Isodose Plan	77301
77306	Teletherapy Isodose Plan; simple	77306, 77307, 77321
77307	Teletherapy Isodose Plan; complex	77306, 77307, 77321
77316	Brachytherapy Isodose Plan; simple	77316, 77317, 77318
77317	Brachytherapy Isodose Plan; intermediate	77316, 77317, 77318
77318	Brachytherapy Isodose Plan; complex	77316, 77317, 77318

¹⁻ Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina - Radiation Oncology - 2023 Utilization Review Matrix



Prior Authorization Process Overview



Radiation Oncologist determines treatment plan and is responsible for obtaining prior authorization.



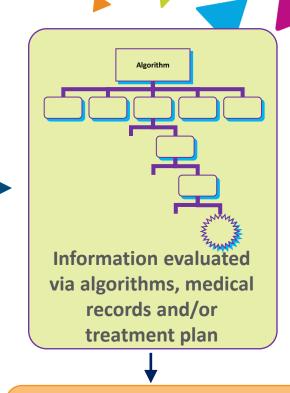
Submit Requests
Online Through
RadMD.com



or by Phone



Radiation Oncologist and
Cancer Treatment Facility is
responsible for ensuring
that prior authorization has
been obtained prior to
providing service









RadOnc Clinical Guidelines Cover Cancers and Conditions



RADONC CLINICAL GUIDELINES

- Medical necessity review is based on nationally recognized, evidence-based clinical guidelines and standards of care.
- All NIA's clinical guidelines are reviewed and approved by Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina.
- NIA's Evidence-Based Clinical Guidelines are available on https://www.RadMD.com.



When to Submit Prior Authorization Requests





Perform treatment planning (Treatment plan and initial set up simulation and guidance)



Prior authorization requests should be submitted to NIA after the treatment plan is completed



Treatment devices and dosimetry calculations



Treatment delivery and management for all radiation therapies delivered or treatment modality and number of treatment/tractions



Submit authorization request ASAP following set up simulation to avoid delay in claims processing



Submit Authorization Request How to Submit Authorization Requests



There are two ways to obtain authorizations -- either through NIA's Website at https://www.RadMD.com (preferred method) or by calling NIA at: 1-866-500-7664 using this process:

- 1 Identify the Member, Member's Physician and Treatment Facility
- Complete the *Radiation Therapy Treatment Plan Checklist* to ensure you have all information needed to complete request
- Answer all clinical and modality technique questions
- Confirm the Information Entered
- 5 Complete the Request



Gather Necessary Patient and Therapy Information Information Required for Authorization



GENERAL

- Name and office phone number of Radiation Oncologist planning and delivering radiation therapy
- Member name and ID number.
- Name of treatment facility where procedures will be performed
- Treatment planning start date and anticipated treatment start date

CLINICAL INFORMATION

- Disease site being treated
- Patient's clinical presentation including:
 - Stage
 - Treatment Intent
 - Disease specific clinical information

TECHNIQUE

- Requested Radiation Therapy Modality (initial and/or boost stages)
 - Total dose
 - Fractions
 - Guidance (IGRT, Port Films)
 - Brachytherapy insertions and fractions
- Additional information needed depends on the cancer site and treatment modality



Intake Process Supported by Cancer Specific Checklists





Cancer-specific checklists provide an efficient "roadmap" for use by radiation oncologist office staff to collect patient's treatment plan information required for the prior authorization request.



Checklists are available on RadMD.com

Sample Radiation Oncologist Checklist

		General I	nformation		
Patient Name	-		DO		Health Plan ID :
Radiation Onc			Bre	ast Surgeon :	
Radiation The		e. Initial Simulation):	LAnt	icipated Treatment St	tact Date:
ireatment ria	inning Start Date (i.	Patient Clinic			art Date.
			cal informat	lon	
✓ Treatmer	ntIntent: Cur	ative Palliative			
✓ Treatmer	nt Timing: 🗌 Pos	t-Lumpectomy Post-Mastect	tomy Other		
TX		✓ Margin Status:	☐ None ☐ Region ight Breast ☐ Left le Breast ☐ Partial] Yes ☐ No erative chemothera	nal Sentinel Both Breast Breast Chest Wall py: Yes No	
□ T2 □ T3 □ T4	metastasis (M1)? Yes No			Clinically Unitocal Tum Yes No	or: ✓ BRCA1 or 2 Mutation: □Yes □No □NA
		Treatment Plan	ining Inform	ation	
✓ What is a	the prescription i	radiation dose for the ENTIRE	course of exter	nal beam treatmer	nt? Gy
		Select Therapy for Initi	ial Treatment	Phase Only	
2-Dim	ension 🗸	Fractions:			
3D Co	nformal 🗸	Number of ports/arcs/fields:			
☐ IMRT		Will any of the following take p created, contrast utilized or cu:	lace during the si		vice Yes No
	-/ Which tech	nique will be used? Unac Multi-Ar	ngle Compensa	tor-Based Helical	☐Arc Therapy ☐Other
	* WHICH CECH				
		IRT course of therapy be inversel	yplanned?	Yes No	



NIA to Radiation Oncologist: Request for Clinical Information





FAXC



DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE

Date: [Date of Fax]

ORDERING PHYSICIAN: [Requesting Provi		der Name]			
FAX NUMBER: [Recipient Fax Number]		TRACKING NUMBER:	[Tracking Number]		
RE:	Authorizati	on Request	MEMBER ID:	[Member ID]	
PATIE	PATIENT NAME: [Member Name]				
HEALT	HEALTH PLAN: [Name of Health Plan]				
We ha	ive received	our request f	or [service]. We a	re unable to approve based	on the information provided to date, please
respor	nd to this fax	as soon as po	ssible.		

URGENT: REPLY REQUIRED FOR CASE REVIEW Request for Additional Clinical Information

We have received your request for [service] along with some clinical information. However, additional information is needed in the form of clinical records which support the medical necessity of these services to make a determination on this case.

[Requested clinical information]

The ordering physician is responsible for obtaining prior authorizations and for submitting the clinical records if requested. Please respond as soon as possible with the clinical information identified above.

Receipt of written records is required in order to process your request. Once this information has been received, the case will be reviewed by a clinician, and you will be notified of the determination. The ordering provider may call to have a <u>peer to peer</u> discussion.

Submitting a prior authorization request on RadMD is fast and efficient!

Our provider portal, RadMD, is the easiest way to request authorizations, upload documents, access clinical guidelines and much more! To get started, visit www.RadMD.com, select New User and submit an Application for New Account.

To initiate a peer-to-peer discussion, please sign in at www.RadMD.com, click "Provider Resources" and "Health Plan Call Center Authorization Phone Numbers" for the appropriate Health Plan-specific phone number.

All information supplied is considered part of the member's utilization review record with NIA and will be kept strictly confidential in accordance with HIPAA and/or applicable state law.

IF THIS CASE IS CLINICALLY URGENT, PLEASE CALL NIA.



[Tracking Number]

If you received this facsimile in error, please reply immediately to the sender that you have received this massage in error and destroy the original. This fax and any files transmitted with it contain information that may be logally confidential and/ar privileged. The information is intended sociely for the information except you amend and access by anyone else is unmembersized. If you are not the intended recipient, any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of the contents of this information is preded and may be unabled and on the your face.



A fax is sent to the Radiation Oncologist detailing what clinical information that is needed such as, treatment plan, prescription, etc., along with a Fax Coversheet.



We stress the need to provide the clinical information as quickly as possible so we can make a determination.



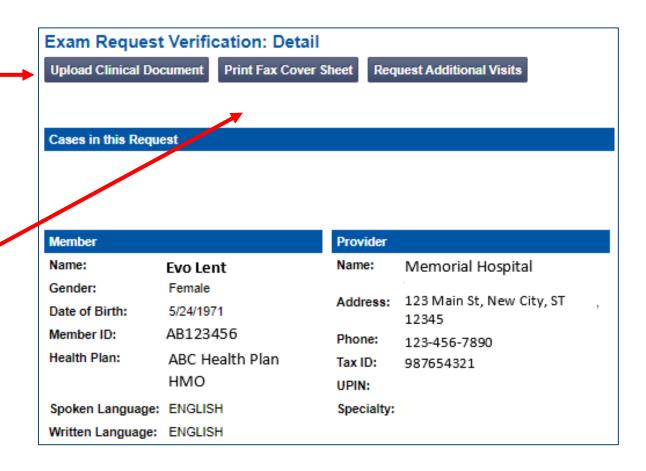
Failure to receive requested clinical information may result in non certification.



Submitting Additional Clinical Information



- Records may be submitted:
 - Upload to <u>https://www.RadMD.com</u>
 - Fax using that NIA coversheet
- Location of Fax Coversheets:
 - Can be printed from https://www.RadMD.com
 - Call 1-866-500-7664
- Use the case specific fax coversheets when faxing clinical information to NIA





Radiation Oncology Prior Authorization Process



Initial Clinical Review – Radiation Oncology Pod



Physician's office contacts NIA via RadMD.com or phone to request approval of the entire treatment plan



All requests pend for clinical review



NIA Radiation
Oncology Nurses and
Radiation Therapists
review all requests
for medical necessity
using Clinical
Guidelines and
Coding Standards if
applicable

Requests that cannot be approved, pend for review by board certified NIA Radiation Oncologist

Physician Clinical Review



NIA board- certified Radiation Oncologist reviews the treatment plan and consults (Peer-to-Peer) with the provider, if needed



NIA Radiation Oncologist approves the treatment plan



NIA Radiation Oncologist partially approves the treatment plan



NIA Radiation Oncologist denies treatment plan and discusses treatment alternatives with provider

Peer-to-peer reviews are always available
Response from NIA within 2 business days of receipt of all needed clinical information.
Clinically urgent requests will be handled in 24 hours



NIA Urgent/Expedited Authorization Process



Urgent/Expedited Authorization Process

- If an urgent clinical situation exists (outside of a hospital emergency room) during business hours, please call NIA immediately.
- The NIA website https://www.RadMD.com cannot be used for medically urgent or expedited prior authorization requests during business hours. Those requests must be processed by calling the NIA call center at 1-866-500-7664.
- Turnaround time is within 1 Business day not to exceed 72 Calendar Hours.



Other Information



Modifying Treatment Plans



Changing or Adding Services for an Approved Treatment Plan

Authorizations

- All modifications of approved treatment plan requests must be called into the Call Center.
- Modifications will be reviewed for Medical Necessity.
- Be prepared to supply additional clinical information if necessary.
- Determination will be made after all requested information is received.
- Authorization number will NOT change.

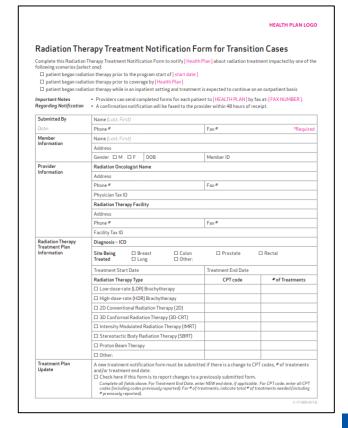


Radiation Therapy Treatment Notification for Transition Cases



Transition cases also include:

- Radiation therapy performed prior to the effective date of the program
- Radiation therapy began prior to member's coverage start date
- Radiation therapy began as inpatient and treatment will continue as outpatient
 - Form available on RadMD.com
 - Fax the completed form to Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina at 1-803-264-0258
 - No Medical Necessity Review Required for these Members. However, notification is required to avoid claim denials
 - Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina will confirm receipt of form within 48 hours from receipt





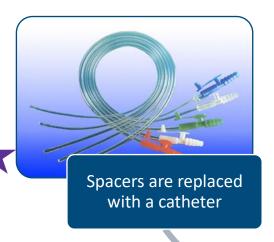
Treatment Authorization Nuances: Partial Breast Irradiation using High Dose Brachytherapy (HDR)

- Involves a Radiation Oncologist and a Breast Surgeon
- Two authorizations required:
 - 1. Treatment Plan Authorization
 - 2. Authorization for Insertion of Catheters

NOTE: Once the radiation therapy treatment plan has been approved, the catheter insertion can be approved.









Prior Authorization occurs here



Prior Authorization Requests - Summary





The radiation oncologist determining the treatment plan and providing the radiation therapy is responsible for obtaining the prior authorization. Prior authorization requests can be made telephonically or through RadMD.

Note: The radiation oncologist is the ordering provider but also the rendering provider for the professional services and is responsible for the oversight of the radiation therapy



The prior authorization request should be submitted after the clinical treatment planning and before the beginning of the treatment phase

- Date Treatment Planning Began
- Anticipated Treatment Start Date



An authorization for a radiation treatment plan will cover the course of treatment.

Note: In order to provide the required prior authorization review information, it will be necessary for the provider to complete the clinical treatment plan prior to the prior authorization call.

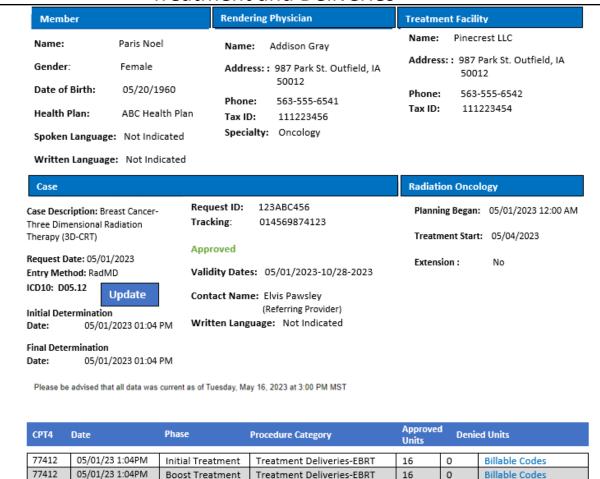


For physicians and cancer treatment facilities, only one authorization is needed for both the technical and professional components of each procedure.



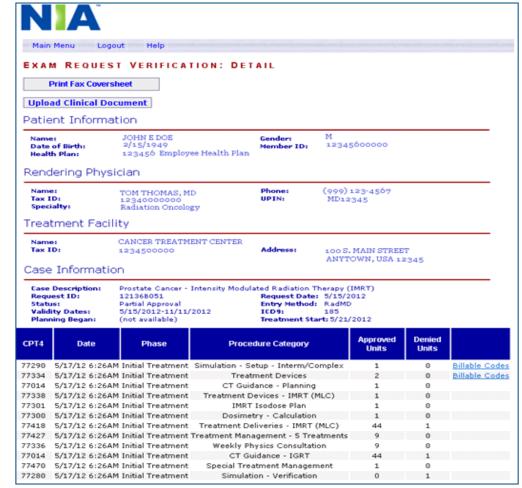
Treatment Plan Authorization Sample Authorization

Treatment and Deliveries





Partial Approval





Coding guidelines available on RadMD and based on NIA Radiation Oncology Coding Standards (based on Revenue Cycle Guidelines)



Notification of Determination



Authorization Notification

- Validity Period Authorizations are valid for:
 - 180 days from date of request for Radiation Oncology allows for all circumstances

Denial Notification

- Notifications will include an explanation of what services have been denied and the clinical rationale for the denial
- A peer-to-peer discussion will be offered prior to an adverse determination. It can also be initiated after the adverse determination has been made
- A reconsideration is available with new or additional information
- Timeframe for reconsideration is 180 calendar days of the denial
- In the event of a denial, providers are asked to follow the appeal instructions provided in their denial letter



Claims and Appeals



How Claims Should be Submitted

- Radiation Oncologists and Cancer Treatment Centers should continue to submit their claims to Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina
- Providers are strongly encouraged to use EDI claims submission
- Check on claims status by logging on to Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina website at www.SouthCarolinaBlues.com

Claims Appeals Process

- In the event of a prior authorization or claims payment denial, providers may appeal the decision through Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina
- Providers should follow the instructions on their nonauthorization letter or Explanation of Payment (EOP) notification



NIA's Website

https://www.RadMD.com



RadMD Website

RadMD.com

Available



24/7 (except during maintenance, performed every third Thursday of the month from 9 pm – midnight PST)



Toll-Free Number
1-866-500-7664
Available



Monday - Friday 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM EST



- Ordering Provider's Office View and submit requests for authorization.
- Rendering Provider Views approved, pended and in review authorizations for their facility.

Online through https://www.RadMD.com:

- Upload Additional Clinical Information
- View Requests for additional Information and Determination Letters
- NIA's Clinical Guidelines
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Quick Reference Guides
- Cancer Site Checklists
- RadMD Quick Start Guide
- Claims/Utilization Matrices



Radiation Oncologists Getting Started on RadMD.com



Allows Users the ability to view all approved, pended and in review authorizations for facility

IMPORTANT

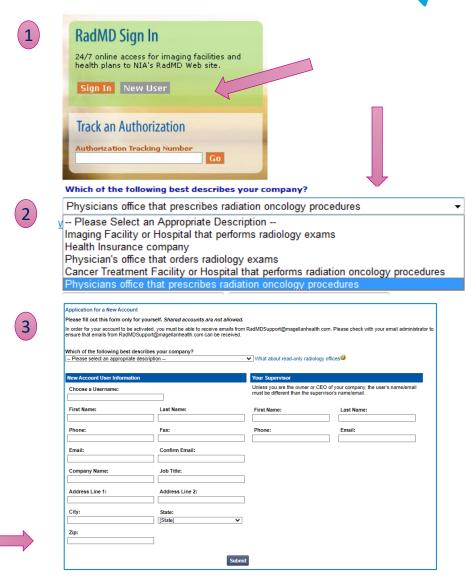
Everyone in your organization is required to have their own separate username and password due to HIPAA regulations.

Designate an "Administrator" for the facility who manages the access for the entire facility.

STEPS:

- Click the "New User" button on the right side of the home page.
- Select "Physician's office" that prescribes radiation oncology procedures".
- 3. Fill out the application and click the "Submit" button.
 - You must include your e-mail address in order for our Webmaster to respond to you with your NIA-approved username and password.
- 4. New users will be granted immediate access

NOTE: On subsequent visits to the site, click the "Sign In" button to proceed.





Cancer Treatment Facilities Getting Started on RadMQ.com

Allows Users the ability to view all approved, pended and in review authorizations for facility

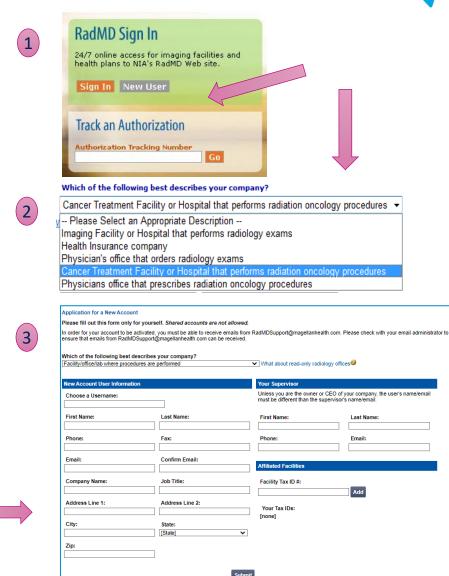
IMPORTANT

- Everyone in your organization is required to have their own separate username and password due to HIPAA regulations.
- Designate an "Administrator" for the facility who manages the access for the entire facility.

STEPS:

- 1. Click the "New User" button on the right side of the home page.
- 2. Select "Cancer Treatment Facility or Hospital that performs radiation oncology procedures".
- Fill out the application and click the "Submit" button.
 - You must include your e-mail address in order for our Webmaster to respond to you with your NIA-approved username and password.
- 4. New users will be granted immediate access

NOTE: On subsequent visits to the site, click the "Sign In" button to proceed.





RadMD Shared Access



NIA offers a **Shared Access** feature on our <u>RadMD.com</u> website. Shared Access allows ordering providers to view authorization requests initiated by other RadMD users within their practice.

		Provider Resources	User	•
Request	Resources and Tools			
Exam or specialty procedure	Shared Access			
(including Cardiac, Ultrasound, Sleep Assessment)	Clinical Guidelines			
Physical Medicine Initiate a Subsequent Request	Request access to Tax ID			
Radiation Treatment Plan	News and Updates			
Pain Management or Minimally Invasive Procedure				
Spine Surgery or Orthopedic Surgery				
Genetic Testing				
	Login As Username:	Login		
Request Status				
Search for Request	Tracking Number:	Search		
View All My Requests	Forgot Tracking	Number?		

If practice staff is unavailable for a period of time, access can be shared with other users in the practice. They will be able to view and manage the authorization requests initiated on RadMD.com, allowing them to communicate with members and facilitate treatment.



When to Contact NIA



Providers:

Initiating or checking the status of an authorization request	 Website, https://www.RadMD.com Toll-free number 1-866-500-7664 - Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System
Initiating a Peer-to-Peer Consultation	Call 1-866-500-7664
Provider Service Line	RadMDSupport@evolent.comCall 1-800-327-0641
Provider Education requests or questions specific to NIA	 Priscilla W. Singleton Provider Relations Manager 1-314-387-5023 psingleton@evolent.com



RadMD Demonstration





Confidentiality Statement



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Thanks

