

# Capital Blue Cross Radiation Oncology Program



Revised: October 2023

# National Imaging Associates, Inc. (NIA)\* Program Agenda



Introduction to NIA\*



Our Program

- Authorization Process
- Other Program Components
- Provider Tools and Contact Information



RadMD Demo

<sup>\*</sup> Effective 1/20/2023, National Imaging Associates, Inc. is now a subsidiary of Evolent Health. Evolent Health and its affiliates and subsidiaries collectively referred to as "Evolent."

# NIA Specialty Solutions

National Footprint / Experience

### **National Footprint**

- Since 1995 delivering Medical Specialty Solutions; one of the *go-to* 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

# Radiation Oncology Prior Authorization Program



Program began on January 1, 2015



- Exchange Programs
- Commercial Programs
- Medicare



 NIA will use the Capital Blue Cross network of Radiation Oncologists and Cancer Treatment Facilities as its preferred providers for delivering Radiation Oncology Solutions to Capital Blue Cross members throughout Pennsylvania.

# 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

### NIA Radiation Oncology Management Services

Management of patient radiation therapy treatment delivered in an outpatient setting

# **Program Covers All Cancers & Non-Cancerous Conditions**

including:

- **Breast**
- Colon/Rectal
- Lung

- Prostate
- Brain/Spine
- Bone

- Metastatic
- Head/Neck
- Other Cancers

### Radiation Therapy Modalities, including:

- Brachytherapy (Low-dose 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

### **Treatment Plans for all Radiation Therapies Delivered**

- **Physics**
- **Simulation**
- Management

- Devices
- Delivery
- Dosimetry

- Image Guidance
- Isodose Planning

# 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 <a href="https://www.RadMD.com">https://www.RadMD.com</a>



Defer to Capital Blue Cross's Policies for Procedures not on Claims/Utilization Review Matrix.





### Capital Blue Cross Radiation Oncology Utilization Review Matrix 2023

The matrix below contains the CPT 4 codes for which National Imaging Associates (NIA)\* manages for the Radiation Oncology program on behalf of Capital Blue Cross. 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.

Medicare created temporary HCPCS G codes which will not be authorized but are payable as part of the allowed billable group if the corresponding CPT code is authorized.

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 these cases.

CPT Codes Requiring Authorization	Description	Allowable Billed Groupings	
19296	Brachytherapy Applicator Insertion (Breast Surgeon)	19296, 19297,19298	
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	
77295¹	3D Simulation Plan	77295, +77293	
77300¹	Dosimetry - Calculation	77301, +77293	
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	
77321	Teletherapy Isodose Plan	77306, 77307, 77321	
77331	Dosimetry - Special	77331	

"Effective 1/20/2023, National Imaging Associates, Inc. is now a subsidiary of Evolent Health. Evolent Health and its affiliates and subsidiaries collectively referred to as "Evolent."

# Prior Authorization Process Overview



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

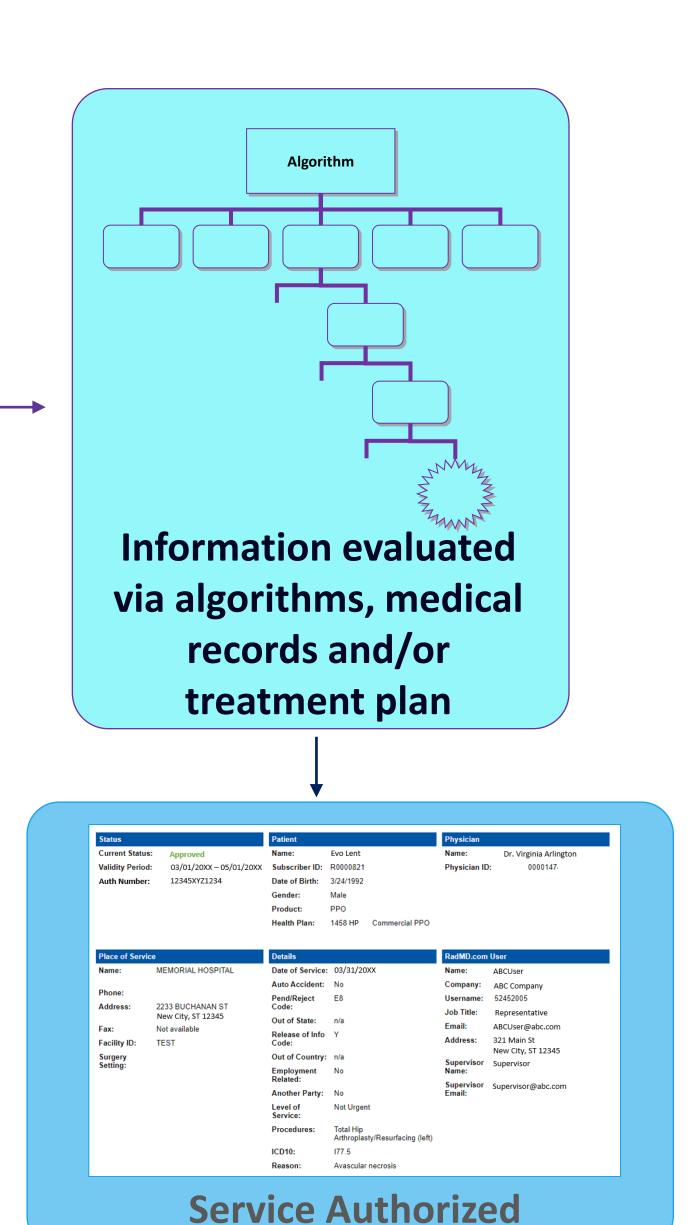






or by Phone

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 Capital Blue Cross.
- NIA's Evidence-Based Clinical Guidelines are available on <a href="https://www.RadMD.com">https://www.RadMD.com</a>

# 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



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 <a href="https://www.RadMD.com">https://www.RadMD.com</a> (preferred method) or by calling 1-888-203-1423 using this process:

- 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
- 3 Answer all clinical and modality technique questions
- Confirm the Information Entered
- 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
  - Image 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

# Sample Radiation Oncologist Checklist



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

olent			
Breast Cancer Ch	acklist		
			to request a medical necessity revie
			lan, radiation therapy consultation, i also contact our Evolent (NIA) Call (
	Please note new case requ		
General Inform	ation		
Post out Name of			
Patient Name: Date of Birth:			
Health Plan and Memb	er ID:		
	art Date (i.e., Initial Simulation):		
Treatment Start Date:			
Ministration Co.	at an		
Clinical Informa	auon		
ICD-10 Code(s):			
	What is the treatment sit		
	Each treatment site requi		
	What is Treatment Intent	t? Curative/ Palliative	
What is the treatment	prescription dose for the cours	se of treatment?	
	herapy treatment start date?	e or o connecti.	
Does the member have	distant metastases (stage VI or	M1) (i.e., disease spr	read to bone, liver, lung, brain)?
1460 - 0		A 1/22 1/22	
	nent be done at the same facilit on therapy? YES or NO? If yes, ;		r site & total dose along with
completion date:	andicipy. Test No. 19 yes,	provide details of prior	site a total bose drong with
w	hat is the DOSE that will be	used for each phase	of treatment?
_	Phase 1	•	
	Phase 2		
	Phase 3		
	E INDICATE THE NUMBER OF		
Phase 1	Phase 2 (Boost)	Phase 3	Treatment
			Superficial /
			Orthovoltage
			2D Radiation Therapy
			3D Radiation Therapy
			Electron Beam Therapy
			Interview March dated
			Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy
			(IMRT)

# NIA to Radiation Oncologist: Request for Clinical Information

### [Tracking Number]

FAXC



### DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE

Date: [Date of Fax]

ORDERING PHYSICIAN: [Request		[Requesting Provi	ider Name]		
FAX NU	MBER: [	Recipient Fa	x Number]	TRACKING NUMBER:	[Tracking Number]
RE:	Authorization	n Request	MEMBER ID:	[Member ID]	
PATIENT NAME: [Member Name]					
HEALTH	I PLAN:	[Name of H	lealth Plan]		
We have received your request for [service]. We are unable to approve based on the information provided to date, please					
respond to this fax as soon as possible.					

### **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 <a href="https://www.RadMD.com">www.RadMD.com</a>, select New User and submit an Application for New Account.

To initiate a peer-to-peer discussion, please sign in at <a href="www.RadMD.com">www.RadMD.com</a>, 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]

**FAXC** 

CONFIDENTIAL NOTICE!

If you received this facsimile in error, please reply immediately to the sender that you have received this message in error and destroy the original. This fax and any files transmitted with it contain information that may be legally confidential and/or privileged. The information is intended solely for the individual or entity named and access by anyone else is unauthorized. If you are not the intended recipient, any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of the contents of this information is prohibited and may be unlawful.



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.



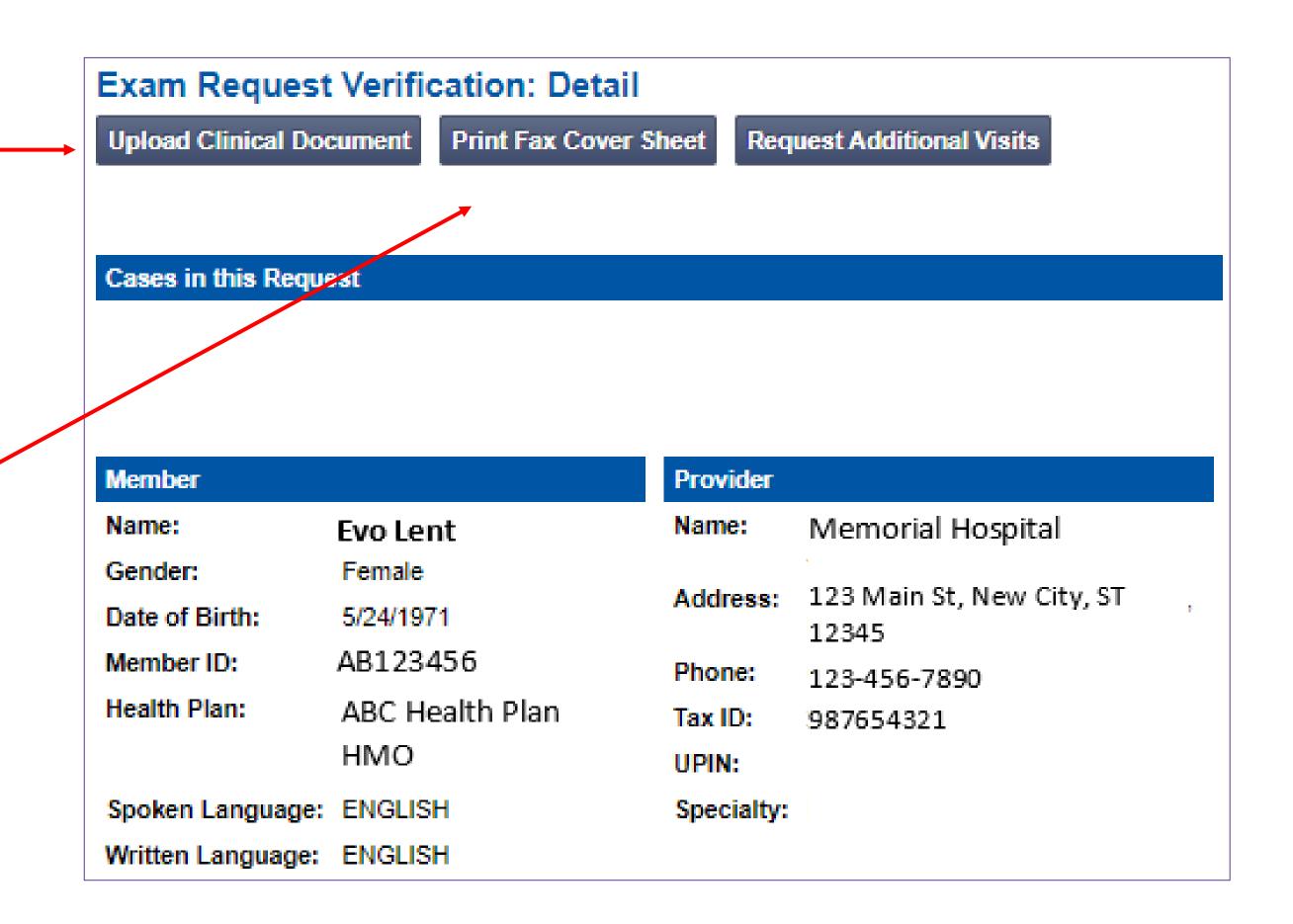
We stress the need to provide the clinical information as quickly as possible so we can make a determination.



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

# Submitting Additional Clinical Information

- Records may be submitted:
  - Upload to https://www.RadMD.com
  - Fax using that NIA coversheet
- Location of Fax Coversheets:
  - Can be printed from https://www.RadMD.com
  - Call 1-888-203-1423
  - 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 boardcertified 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 to 3 business days of receipt of all needed clinical information.
Clinically urgent requests will be handled in 72 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 <a href="https://www.RadMD.com">https://www.RadMD.com</a> 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 1-888-203-1423.
- Turnaround time is within 2 Business days not to exceed 72 Calendar Hours.

# 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.

# 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.

# Radiation Therapy Treatment Notification for Transition Cases

### Transition cases also include:

- Radiation therapy began prior to member's coverage start date
- Radiation therapy began as inpatient, and treatment will continue as outpatient



 A Radiation Therapy Treatment Notification Form is located in the Paper Forms section of the Capital Blue Cross Provider Library via NaviNet, must be submitted to Capital Blue Cross



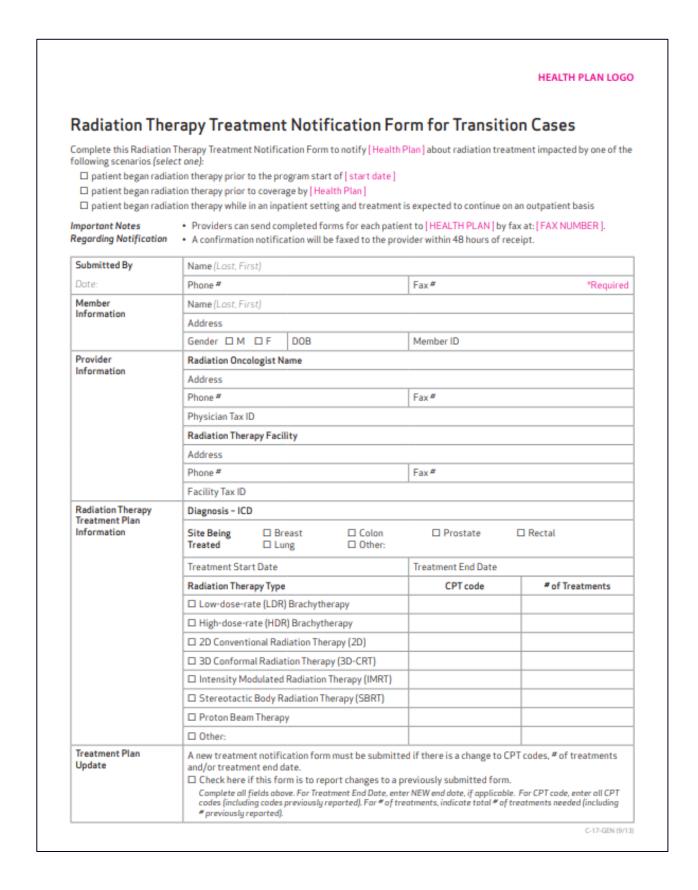
• Fax the completed form to Capital Blue Cross at: 717-540-2171



 No Medical Necessity Review Required for these Members. However, notification is required to avoid claim denials



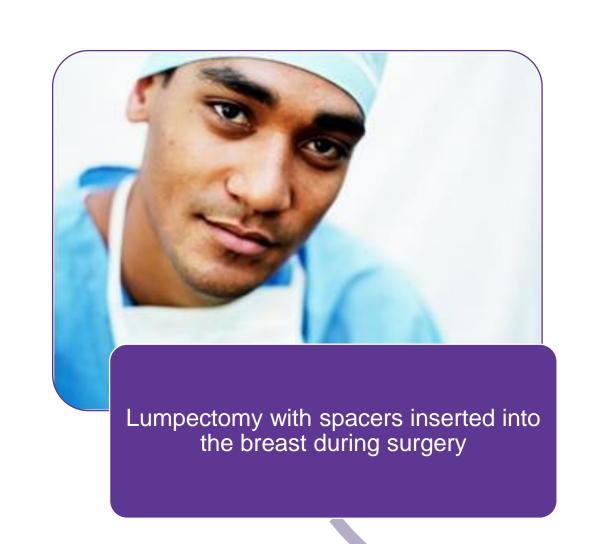
 Capital Blue Cross will confirm receipt of form within 48 hours from receipt

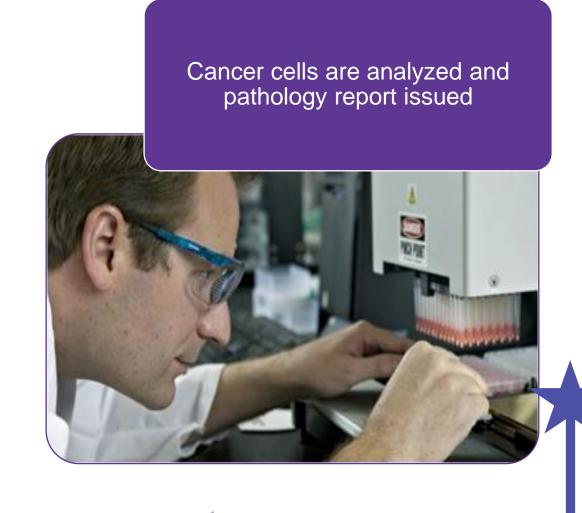


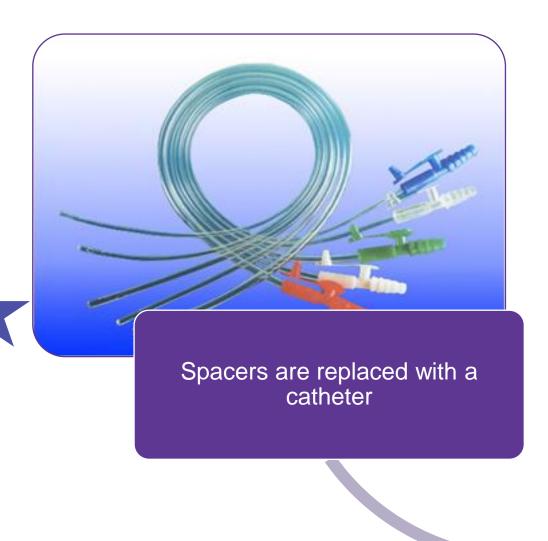
# Treatment Authorization Nuances: Partial Breast Irradiation using High Dose Brachytherapy (HDR)

- 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.



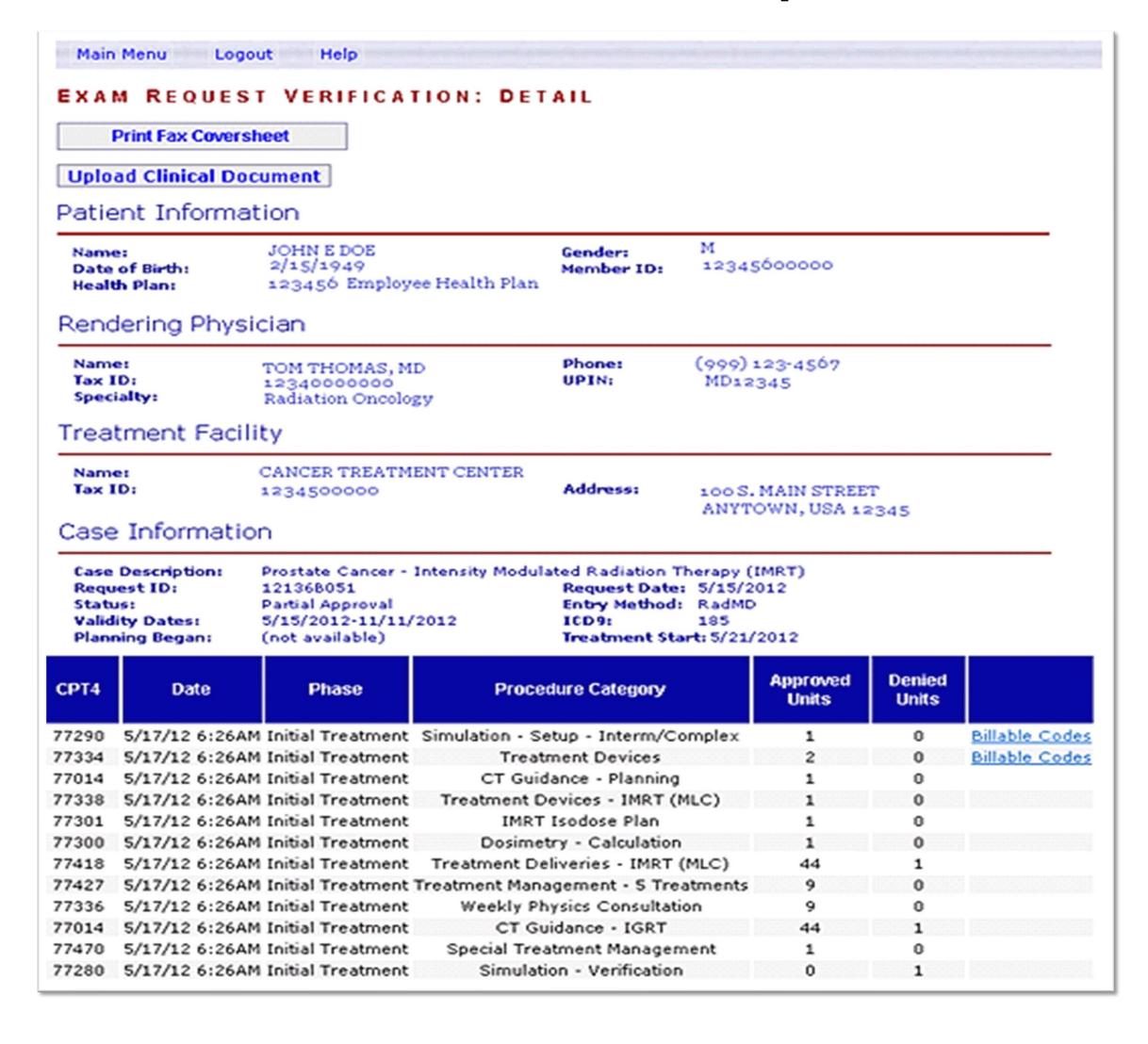






**Prior Authorization occurs here** 

# Treatment Plan Authorization Sample Authorization





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

### **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 within 5 business days of denial.
- Medicare re-opens are not available
- 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 Capital Blue Cross
- Providers are strongly encouraged to use EDI claims submission
- Check on claims status by logging on to the Capital Blue Cross website at:

https://www.navinet.navimedix.com

# Claims Appeals Process

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

# NIA's Website



### RadMD Website

https://www.RadMD.com

# Available



24/7 except during maintenance, performed every third Friday of the month from 12 AM – 3 AM EST)



# **Toll-Free Number**

1-888-203-1423



# Available

Monday - Friday

8:00 AM - 8:00 PM EST

# RadMD Functionality varies by user

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

# Online through <a href="https://www.RadMD.com">https://www.RadMD.com</a>

- 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**

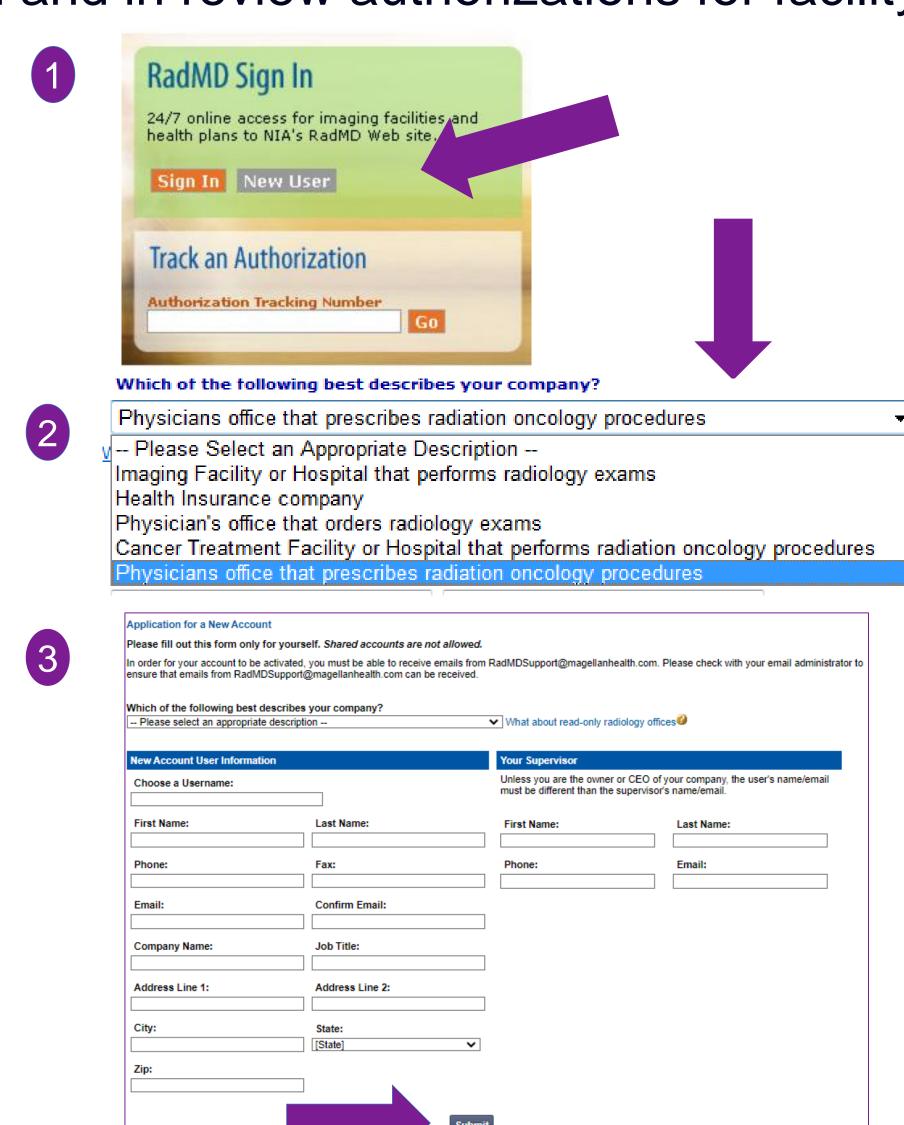
Everyone in your organization is required to have their own separate username and password due to HIPAA regulations.

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

### **STEPS:**

- 1. Click the "New User" button on the right side of the home page.
- 2. 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.



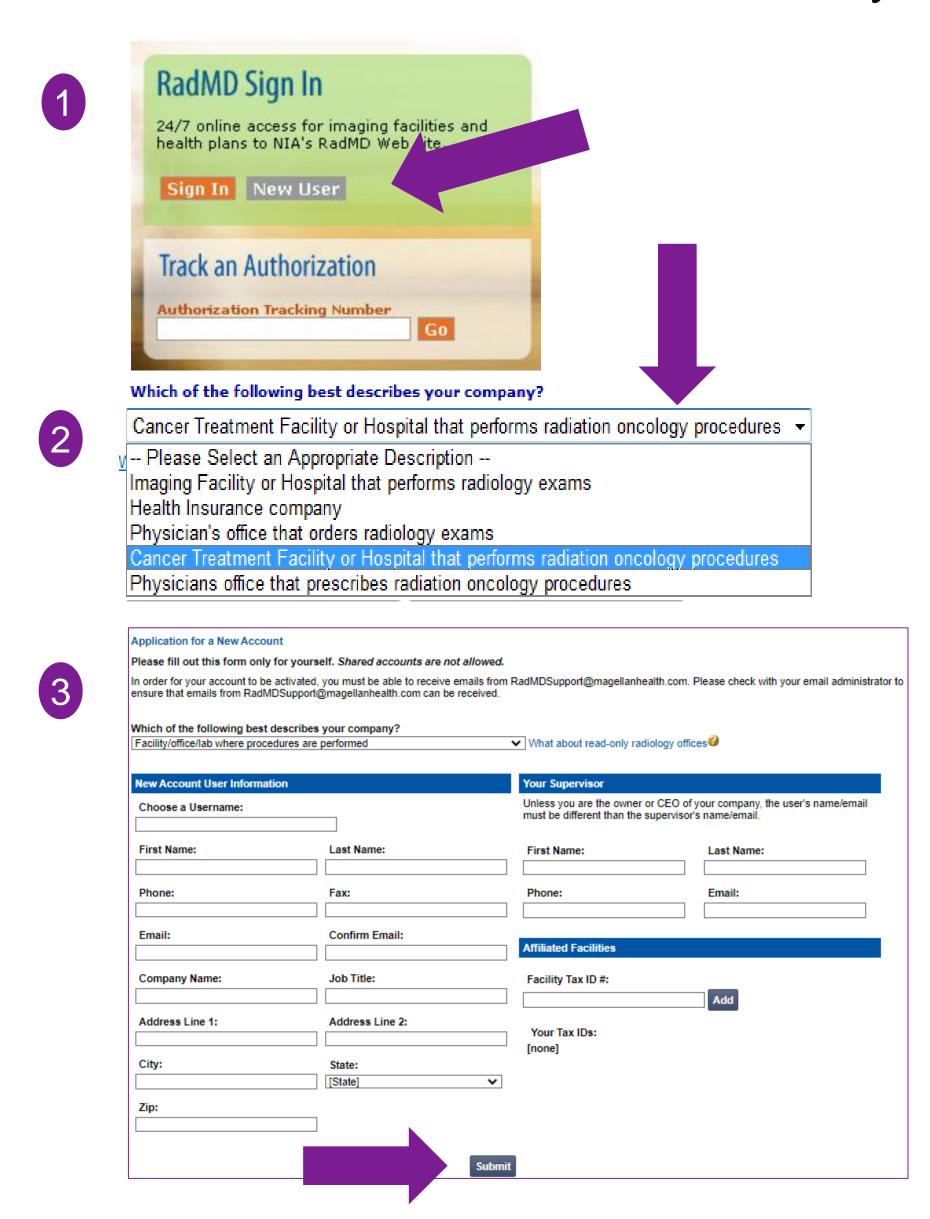
# Cancer Treatment Facilities Getting Started on RadMD.com

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.
- 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".
- 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.



# 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	<b>V</b>
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 <a href="RadMD.com">RadMD.com</a>, allowing them to communicate with members and facilitate treatment.

# When to Contact NIA

### Providers:

Initiating or checking
the status of an
authorization request

Initiating a Peer-to-Peer Consultation

Provider Service Line

Provider Education requests or questions specific to NIA

- Website, <a href="https://www.RadMD.com">https://www.RadMD.com</a>
- Toll-free number 1-888-203-1423 Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System

Call 1-888-203-1423

- RadMDSupport@evolent.com
- Call 1-800-327-0641

Lori A. Fink
 Provider Relations Manager
 410-953-2621
 Ifink@evolent.com

# RadMD Demonstration

# Confidentiality Statement

The information presented in this presentation is confidential and expected to be used solely in support of the delivery of services to Capital Blue Cross members. By receipt of this presentation, each recipient agrees that the information contained herein will be kept confidential and that the information will not be photocopied, reproduced, or distributed to or disclosed to others at any time without the prior written consent of Capital Blue Cross and National Imaging Associates, Inc. (NIA).

# Thank you!