

Cardiac Imaging Frequently Asked Questions

Cardiac Studies for Highmark Wholecare Medicare and Highmark Wholecare Medicaid (Highmark Wholecare)

Why do some cardiac-related studies now require prior authorization?

Prior authorization is required to minimize radiation exposure and promote the most appropriate test for the continuum of care.

How does the program work?

The cardiac imaging management program assesses imaging technologies used to diagnose and monitor members with cardiac-related conditions in non-emergent cases. The program takes a comprehensive approach to determine if a recommended test is the proper next step in diagnosing cardiac-related conditions or if another test is more appropriate.

What cardiac-related imaging procedures are included in the Highmark Wholecare cardiac program?

Prior authorization through National Imaging Associates¹ will be required for the following cardiac modalities:

- CCTA
- Myocardial Perfusion Imaging (MPI)
- MUGA Scan
- Stress Echocardiography

What additional services are provided?

- Evidence-based algorithms to support the best diagnostic options for each member
- Consultations with cardiologists related to elective cardiac diagnostic imaging when peer-to-peer review is required

What do ordering providers need to do?

Ordering providers need to get prior authorization for non-emergent, outpatient:

- MRI/MRA
- CT/CTA
- PET Scan

- CCTA
- MPI
- MUGA Scan
- Stress Echocardiography

Who will administer clinical oversight of the cardiac program?

Board-certified cardiologists worked with community-based physicians to develop evidence-based clinical guidelines and algorithms that determine the best available diagnostic pathway. These board-certified cardiologists also consult with referring physicians to apply these guidelines and algorithms to a member’s specific symptoms and medical history. By determining the most appropriate clinical imaging protocol for each member, we can reduce duplicative testing, minimize member radiation exposure, shorten diagnosis time, and improve the overall health care experience.

Is there anything I should be doing before the program begins?

If you haven’t done so already, please take a few minutes to register on www.RadMD.com. This portal gives you the most expedient way to process your imaging requests.

What happens if I need to have an inpatient or emergent cardiac procedure performed?

Highmark Wholecare will continue to manage inpatient and emergency cardiac procedures as is done today.

KEY PROVISIONS

- Emergency room and inpatient imaging procedures do not require prior authorization.