WellFirst Health Musculoskeletal (MSK) Management Program

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Senior Manager, Provider Relations



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



Place of Service Updates to Our MSK Program

- 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 MSK Prior Authorization Program



 WellFirst Health began a prior authorization program through NIA for the management of MSK Services.



- Updated program start date: July 1, 2021.
- inpatient total knee arthroplasty and total hip arthroplasty prior authorization requests submitted with dates of service on and after July 1, 2021were reviewed for place of service (also referred to as site of care) in addition to the current review for medical necessity



Procedures:

- Non-emergent inpatient and most outpatient hip, knee, shoulder, lumbar and cervical spine surgeries.
- Effective July 1, 2021, prior authorization is no longer required for outpatient total knee arthroplasty and total
 - hip arthroplasty procedures (CPT 27447 and 27130 only).



- Commercial
- MAPD



NIA uses WellFirst
Health's network of
physicians, surgeons,
hospitals, surgery
centers and in-office
providers as it's
preferred providers
for delivering select
inpatient and most
outpatient surgeries
to health plan
members.



What is Changing for 2021 THA/TKA: Prior Authorization Effective 7/1/2021





- In response to provider feedback, effective July 1, 2021, WellFirst Health no longer requires prior authorization approval for outpatient Total Knee Arthroplasty (CPT code 27447) and Total Hip Arthroplasty (CPT code 27130) procedures.
- This includes authorizations for medical necessity and place of service (also referred to as site of care).
- Outpatient includes the following level of care designations:
 - Outpatient observation
 - Outpatient ambulatory (same day) care
 - Hospital outpatient day surgery (HOPD) overnight
- If a patient develops intra-operative or post-operative complications and needs to move to an inpatient setting, the facility must notify WellFirst Health of the inpatient admission, per the current process for outpatient surgeries. Failure to do so may impact claim payments.



- Prior authorization requests for inpatient total knee arthroplasty and total hip arthroplasty will be reviewed for place of service (also referred to as site of care) in addition to the current review for medical necessity of the surgery.
- This prior authorization information applies to CPT codes 27447 and 27130 only, not all Musculoskeletal Care Management (MSK) procedures.
- NIA reviews the place of service on prior authorization requests to determine if an inpatient setting is clinically appropriate.
- NIA will continue to review these requests for medical necessity in addition to the place of service which could result in partial authorization approval (e.g., surgery is approved but not the place of service for the surgery).



(TKA) and (THA) Ambulatory Level of Care Medical Policy 9550





- WellFirst Health does not expect that all unilateral total knee and hip replacements will be performed on an outpatient basis.
- An inpatient setting may still be medically appropriate for certain patients who meet medical policy criteria, as detailed in our Medical Policy 9550
- Inpatient level of care may be appropriate for:
 - Member is 70 years of age or older
 - BMI is 50 or greater
 - Member lives alone with no caregiver available after surgery
 - Member has history of anesthesia complications
 - Serious comorbid illness
 - Travel over 2 hours to the surgical facility.
- https://wellfirstbenefits.com/Document-Library/PDF/Medical-Policies/TKA-and-THA-Site-of-Care-9550-Effective-07-01-2021



When to Contact NIA

Providers:

Initiating or checking the status of an authorization request	 Website, https://www.RadMD.com Toll-free number 1-866-232-3955- Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System 		
Initiating a Peer-to-Peer Consultation	Call 1-866-232-3955		
Provider Service Line	RadMDSupport@evolent.comCall 1-800-327-0641		
Provider Education requests or questions specific to NIA	 Gina Braswell OTR/L Provider Relations Manager 1-952-225-5726 gbraswell@evolent.com 		



Appendix



NIA's Hip and Knee Surgery *Place of Service Changes



- Revision/Conversion Hip Arthroplasty
- Inpatient only Total Hip Arthroplasty/Resurfacing
- Femoroacetabular Impingement (FAI) Hip Surgery (includes CAM/pincher & labral repair)
- Hip Surgery Other (includes synovectomy, loose body removal, debridement, diagnostic hip arthroscopy, and extra-articular arthroscopy knee)





- Revision Knee Arthroplasty
- Inpatient only Total Knee Arthroplasty (TKA)
- Partial-Unicompartmental Knee Arthroplasty (UKA)
- Knee Manipulation under Anesthesia (MUA)
- Knee Ligament Reconstruction/Repair
- Knee Meniscectomy/Meniscal Repair/Meniscal Transplant
- Knee Surgery Other (includes synovectomy, loose body removal, diagnostic knee arthroscopy, debridement with or without chondroplasty, lateral release/patellar realignment, articular cartilage restoration)



Excluded from the Program

Hip, Knee and Shoulder Surgeries Performed in the following Settings:

- Emergency Surgery admitted via the Emergency Room
- Effective July 1, 2021, prior authorization will no longer be required for **outpatient** total knee arthroplasty and total hip arthroplasty procedures (CPT 27447 and 27130 only).

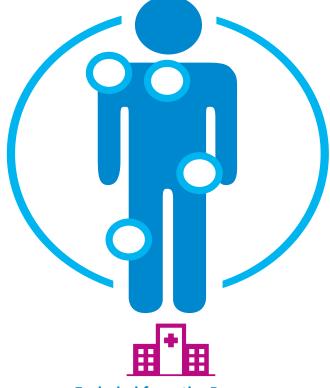


NIA's Lumbar/Cervical Spine and Shoulder Surgery *No changes to this part of the program



Targeted Lumbar and Cervical Spine Surgery Procedures Performed in an Inpatient and Outpatient Facility

- Lumbar Microdiscectomy
- Lumbar Decompression (Laminotomy, Laminectomy, Facetectomy & Foraminotomy)
- Lumbar Spine Fusion (Arthrodesis) With or Without Decompression – Single & Multiple Levels
- Cervical Anterior Decompression with Fusion Single & Multiple Levels
- Cervical Posterior Decompression with Fusion Single & Multiple Levels
- Cervical Posterior Decompression (without fusion)
- Cervical Artificial Disc Replacement Single & Two Levels
- Cervical Anterior Decompression (without fusion)



Excluded from the Program

Surgeries Performed in the following

Settings (No changes):

 Emergency Surgery – admitted via the Emergency Room



Targeted Shoulder Surgery

- Revision Shoulder Arthroplasty
- Total/Reverse Shoulder Arthroplasty or Resurfacing
- Partial Shoulder Arthroplasty/Hemiarthroplasty
- Shoulder Rotator Cuff Repair
- Shoulder Labral Repair
- Frozen Shoulder Repair/Adhesive Capsulitis
- Shoulder Surgery Other (includes debridement, manipulation, decompression, tenotomy, tenodesis, synovectomy, claviculectomy, diagnostic shoulder arthroscopy)

Please note that CPT Codes 22800-22819 used for reconstructive spinal deformity surgery do not require NIA/WellFirst Health prior authorization. NIA will monitor the use of these CPT codes, but prior authorization is not currently required.



List of CPT Procedure Codes Requiring Prior Authorization







The new Claims/Utilization Review Matrix reflects changes in CPT codes 27447 and 27130.



CPT Codes managed by NIA and their Allowable Billable Groupings.



Located on www.RadMD.com.



Defer to the health plan's policies for procedures not on Claims/Utilization
Review Matrix.



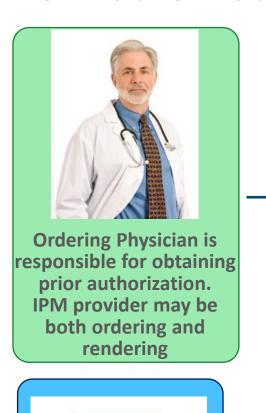


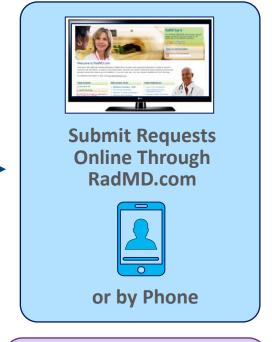
WellFirst Health Utilization Review Matrix 2023 Musculoskeletal Surgery (Hip, Knee, and Shoulder)

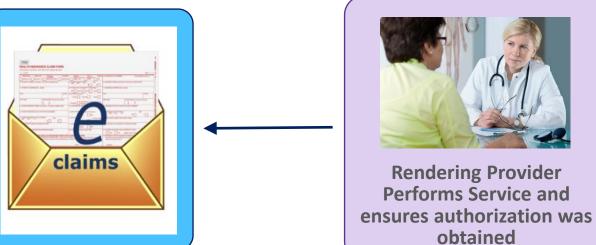
HIP SURGERY				
Primary Surgery Request	Primary CPT Code	Primary Surgery Allowable Billed Groupings	Additional Covered Procedures/Codes	
Authorization is provided for the <u>primary surgery</u> requested. There are multiple CPT codes that can be associated with each procedure. These are assumed to be part of the primary surgery request and when completed in combination, do not require a separate authorization.				
Revision/Conversion Hip Arthroplasty	27134	27132, 27134, 27137, 27138		
Total Hip Arthroplasty/Resurfacing Inpatient ONLY 1	27130	27130, S2118		
Femoroacetabular Impingement (FAI) Hip Surgery	29914	29914, 29915, 29916	Loose Body Removal: 29861 Chondroplasty: 29862 Synovectomy: 29863	

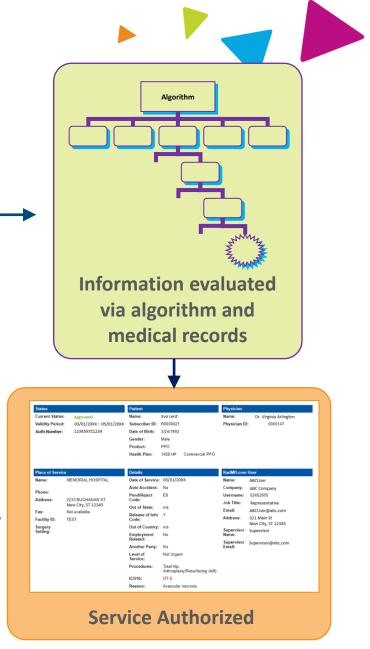


Prior Authorization Process Overview





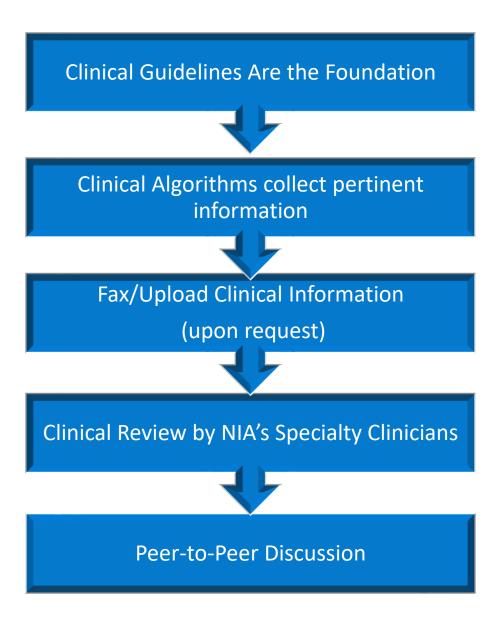






NIA's Clinical Foundation & Review





- Clinical guidelines were developed by practicing specialty physicians, through literature reviews and evidenced-based research. Guidelines are reviewed and mutually approved by the Plan and NIA Medical Officers and clinical experts. Clinical Guidelines are available on RadMD.com
- Algorithms are a branching structure that changes depending upon the answer to each question.
- The member's clinical information/medical record will be required for validation of clinical criteria before an approval can be made.
- NIA has a specialized clinical team focused on MSK.
- Peer-to-peer discussions are offered for any request that does not meet medical necessity guidelines.
- Our goal ensure that members are receiving appropriate care.



Surgery Clinical Checklist Reminders



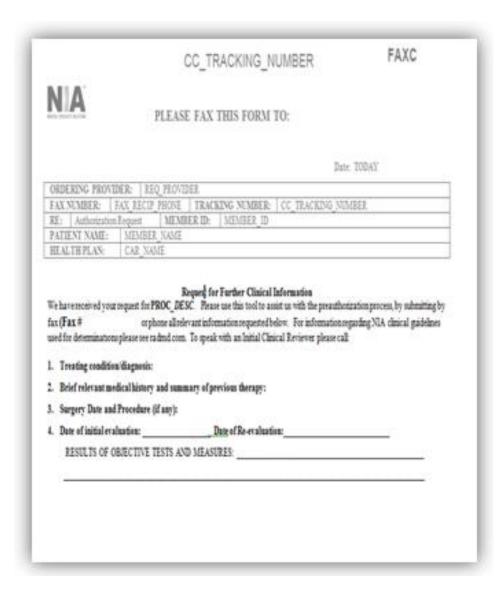
Surgery Documentation:

- Details regarding the member's symptoms and their onset/duration
- Physical exam findings
- Conservative treatment modalities with dates and duration (e.g., physical therapy, home exercise plan, injections, medications, activity modification)
- Diagnostic imaging results
- Ordering physician's surgical plan (including a discussion about the potential risks and benefits of the procedure) (BMI, smoking history, mental status for some surgeries)



NIA to Physician: Request for Clinical Information







A fax is sent to the provider detailing what clinical information that is needed, along with a Fax Coversheet.



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



Determination timeframe begins after receipt of clinical information.



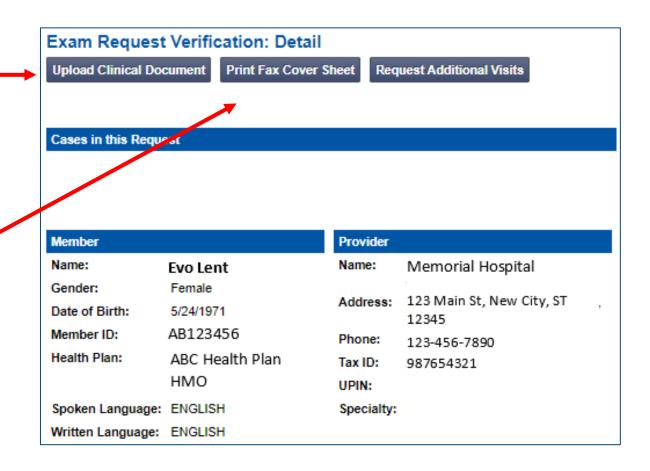
Failure to receive requested clinical information may result in non certification.



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 1-866-232-3955
- Use the case specific fax coversheets when faxing clinical information to NIA





Clinical Specialty Team: Focused on MSK





MSK Surgery Reviews

Initial clinical review performed by specialty trained surgery nurses

Surgery concierge team will proactively reach out for additional clinical information Orthopedic surgeons
or neurosurgeons
conduct clinical reviews
and peer-to-peer
discussions on surgery
requests



MSK Clinical Review Process



Physicians' Office Contacts NIA for Prior Authorization









NIA Initial Clinical Specialty Team Review

- Additional clinical information submitted and reviewed Procedure Approved
- Additional clinical not complete or inconclusive Escalate to Physician Review



Designated & Specialized Clinical MSK Team interacts with Provider Community.

1

2

3

4

System Evaluates Request
Based on Information Entered
by Physician & Physician Profile

• Additional clinical information required



• NIA Physician approves case without peer-to-peer



Peer-to-peer outbound attempt made if case is not approvable

- NIA Physician approves case with peer-to-peer
- Ordering Physician withdraws case during peer-to-peer
- Physician denies case based on medical criteria

Key NIA
Differentiators

Generally, the turnaround time for completion of these requests is within two to three business days upon receipt of sufficient clinical information.



NIA Urgent/Expedited MSK Authorization Process



Urgent/Expedited MSK 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 1-866-232-3955.
- Turnaround time is within 1 Business day not to exceed 72 Calendar Hours.



Notification of Determination



Authorization Notification

- Validity Period Authorizations are valid for:Surgical
 - Inpatient 14 days from date of service.
 - Outpatient- SDC/Ambulatory 90 days from date of service (with exception of CPT 27447 and 27130).
- The date of service that is selected at the time of the prior authorization request, will be used to determine the validity period. If the date of service changes, please contact NIA to update.

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 can be initiated once the adverse determination has been made.
- A reconsideration/re-review may be available with new or additional information.
- Timeframe for reconsideration/re-review is 10 calendar days from denial determination.
- In the event of a denial, providers are asked to follow the instructions provided in their denial letter.
- Medicare re-opens are available.



MSK Surgery Points – Hip and Knee Surgery





Effective July 1, 2021, the following two procedures when done in an outpatient setting do not require prior authorization. If the procedure is performed in an inpatient setting the request will be reviewed for place of service (also referred to as site of care) in addition to the current review for medical necessity.



Bilateral hip or knee surgeries require authorization for both the left **and** right side. These requests can be entered at the same time and will be reviewed concurrently.



Surgeries addressing the following are not included in the musculoskeletal management program: trauma, amputation, fracture, active infection, pediatric conditions, congenital malformation, dysplasia (hip), palsy/plegia, osteochondritis dissecans (knee), osteotomy (knee), tumor, cyst, cancer, arthrodesis, girdle resection (hip), denervation (hip), joint dislocation, hemiarthroplasty (hip), hardware removal, & foreign body.



If additional services, beyond those authorized, are rendered due to a finding during the surgery or a change in condition following the surgery, the surgeon is required to contact NIA's Call Center at 1-866-232-3955 within 7 business days of the date of the surgery. At that time, clinical information to support the medical necessity of the additional services will be required.



MSK Surgery Points – Lumbar/Cervical Spine Surgery





Inpatient and outpatient non-emergent surgeries



Spine Surgery is focused on lumbar and/or cervical spine surgeries



For spinal surgeries, only one authorization request per surgery. For example, a Lumbar fusion authorization includes decompression, instrumentation, etc.



CPT Codes 22800-22819 used for reconstructive spinal deformity surgery and the associated instrumentation do not require prior authorization. NIA will monitor the use of these CPT codes.



MSK Surgery Points – For all Surgeries





Specialized Orthopedic Surgeons or Neurosurgeons will review surgery requests. Inpatient admissions will continue to be subject to concurrent review by WellFirst Health.



WellFirst Health prior authorization requirements for the facility or hospital admission must be obtained separately and only initiated after the surgery has met NIA's medical necessity criteria. Inpatient admissions will continue to be subject to concurrent review by the health plan.



If an urgent/emergent admission is required during an outpatient procedure, contact WellFirst Health directly at 1-866-514-4194 to notify of the change in status.



Inpatient authorizations are valid for 14 days from the date of service. Outpatient (with the exception of CPT 27447 and 27130) – SDC/Ambulatory authorizations are valid 90 days from the date of service. NIA must be notified of any changes to the date of service.



Provider Tools





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 1-866-232-3955



Available
Monday - Friday
7:00 AM - 7:00 PM CST

- Request Authorization
- View Authorization Status
- View and manage Authorization Requests with other users
- Upload Additional Clinical Information
- View Requests for additional Information and Determination Letters
- View Clinical Guidelines
- View Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- View Other Educational Documents

Interactive Voice Response (IVR)System for authorization tracking



NIA's Website

https://www.RadMD.com

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.
- IPM providers are typically both the ordering and the rendering provider.

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

- NIA's Clinical Guidelines
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Quick Reference Guides
- IPM Checklist
- RadMD Quick Start Guide
 - Claims/Utilization Matrices







Registering on RadMD.com To Initiate Authorizations

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

STEPS:

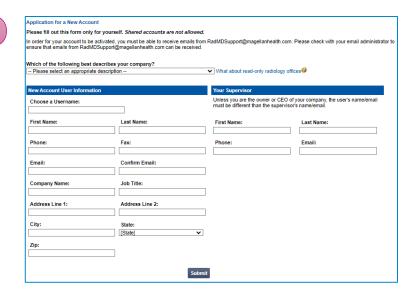
- 1. Click the "New User" button on the right side of the home page.
- 2. Select "Physician's office that orders procedures"
- 3. Fill out the application and click the "Submit" button.
 - You must include your e-mail address in order for our Webmaster to respond to you with your NIA-approved username and password.

Offices that will be both ordering and rendering should request ordering provider access, this will allow your office to request authorizations on RadMD and see the status of those authorization requests.





-- Please Select an Appropriate Description -Physician's office that orders procedures
Facility/office where procedures are performed
Health Insurance company
Cancer Treatment Facility or Hospital that performs radiation oncology procedures
Physicians office that prescribes radiation oncology procedures
Physical Medicine Practitioner (PT, OT, ST, Chiro, etc.)





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:

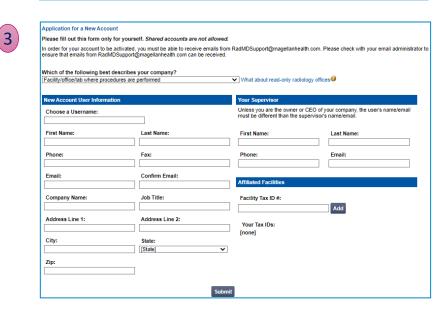
- 1. Click the "New User" button on the right side of the home page.
- 2. Select "Facility/office where procedures are performed"
- 3. Fill out the application and click the "Submit" button.
 - You must include your e-mail address in order for our Webmaster to respond to you with your NIA-approved username and password.
- 4. New users will be granted immediate access

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

If you have multiple staff members entering authorizations and you want each person to be able to see all approved, pended and in review authorizations, they will need to register for a rendering username and password. The administrator will have the ability to approve rendering access for each employee. This will allow users to see all approved, pended and in review authorizations under your organization.



-- Please Select an Appropriate Description -Physician's office that orders procedures
Facility/office where procedures are performed
Health Insurance company
Cancer Treatment Facility or Hospital that performs radiation oncology procedures
Physicians office that prescribes radiation oncology procedures
Physical Medicine Practitioner (PT, OT, ST, Chiro, etc.)





RadMD Demonstration





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Thanks

