



# Wellcare Health Insurance Company of Washington, Inc. (Wellcare) Musculoskeletal (MSK) Management Program

Provider Training Presented by: Debbie Patterson, Provider Relations Manager

January 2024

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

#### Our MSK Program

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

<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

## NIA's MSK Prior Authorization Program



 Wellcare will begin a prior authorization program through NIA for the management of MSK Services.



- Program start date: February 1, 2024
- Begin obtaining authorizations from NIA on February 1, 2024, via RadMD or Call Center for services rendered on or after February 1, 2024



#### Procedures:

- Outpatient, interventional spine pain management services (IPM) specific to spinal cord stimulators
- Inpatient and outpatient hip, knee, shoulder, lumbar and cervical spine surgeries

#### Settings:

- Surgery Center
- In Office Provider
- Hospital



Medicaid



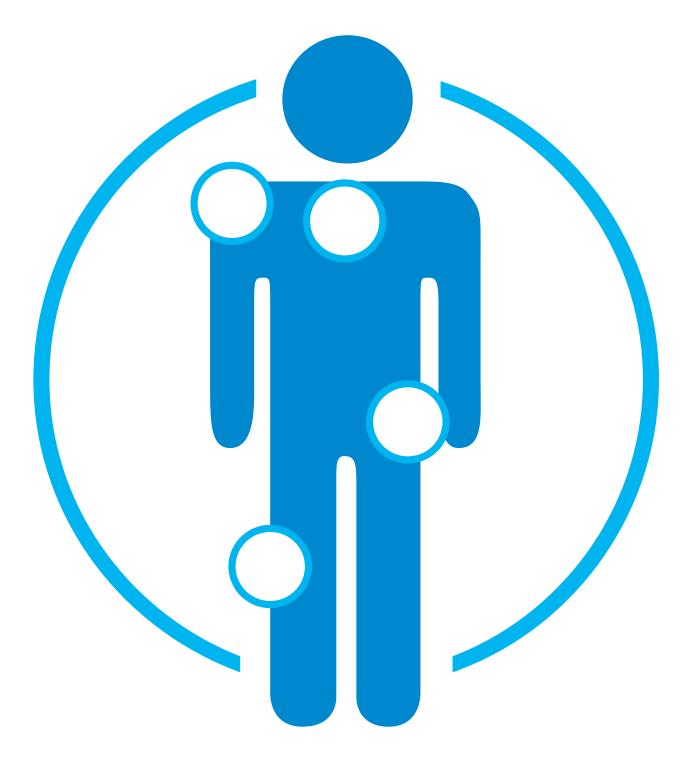
 NIA will manage nonemergent select services for Wellcare Medicaid Line of Business (LOB) effective February 1, 2024, through the Wellcare's contractual relationships.

#### NIA's IPM Solution



### Targeted IPM Procedures Performed in an Outpatient Facility or office

- Spinal Epidural Injections
- Paravertebral Facet Joint Injections or Blocks
- Paravertebral Facet Joint
   Denervation(Radiofrequency (RF) Neurolysis)
- Sacroiliac joint injections
- Sympathetic Nerve Blocks
- Spinal Cord Stimulators (Effective February 1, 2024)





## Excluded from the Program IPM Procedures Performed in the following Settings:

- Hospital Inpatient
- Observation Room
- Emergency Room/Urgent Care Facility

NIA will use the Wellcare networks of Pain Management Physicians, Hospitals and In-Office Providers as its
preferred providers for delivering Outpatient IPM Services to Wellcare members throughout Washington.

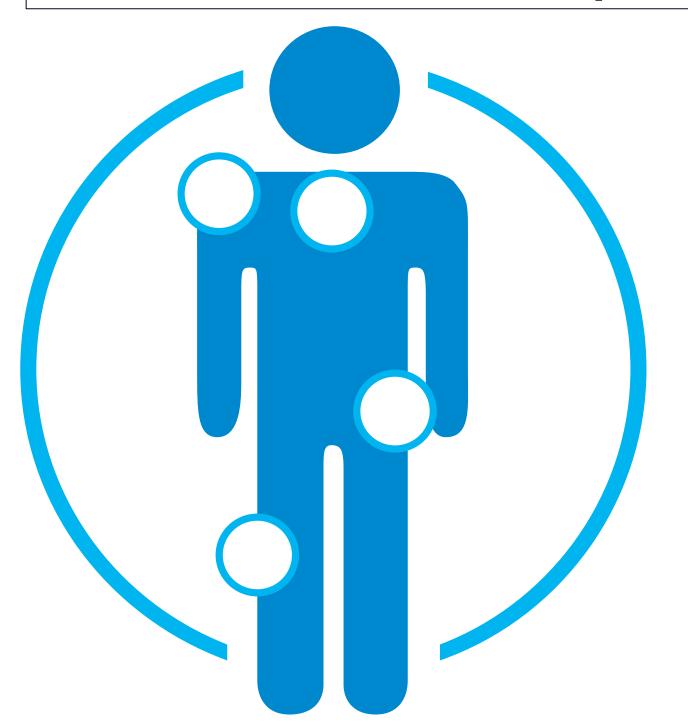
## NIA's Lumbar and Cervical Spine Surgery



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)
- Lumbar Artificial Disc Single & Two Levels
- Sacroiliac Joint Fusion

Procedures Performed on or after February 1, 2024, Require Prior Authorization. NIA's Call Center and RadMD will open February 1, 2024





Excluded from the Program Surgeries Performed in the following Settings:

Emergency Surgery –
 admitted via the
 Emergency Room

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

## NIA's Hip, Knee and Shoulder Surgery Performed in an Inpatient and Outpatient Facility



#### **Targeted Hip Surgery**

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

#### **Targeted Knee Surgery**

- Revision Knee Arthroplasty
- 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)



#### **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)



## Excluded from the Program Hip, Knee and Shoulder Surgeries Performed in the following Settings:

 Emergency Surgery – admitted via the Emergency Room

# List of CPT Procedure Codes Requiring Prior Authorization (IPM)







Defer to Wellcare's Policies for Procedures not on Claims/Utilization Review Matrix.





## National Imaging Associates, Inc. (NIA)\* Wellcare 2024 Utilization Review Matrix Interventional Pain Management (IPM)

PROCEDURES PROCEDURES			
Procedure Name	Primary CPT Code	Allowable Billed Groupings	Ancillary Procedures/Codes
Authorization is provided at the <u>procedure</u> level. There are multiple CPT codes that can be associated with each procedure. These are assumed to be part of the primary request and, when completed in combination, do not require a separate authorization.			These codes do not require prior authorization. If the main procedure is approved, these codes are understood to be included and do not require precertification from the health plan.  *Please note: This is not an all-inclusive list of every possible ancillary code.
Cervical/Thoracic Interlaminar Epidural	62321	62320, 62321	
Cervical/Thoracic Transforaminal Epidural	64479	64479, +64480	
Lumbar/Sacral Interlaminar Epidural	62323	62322, 62323	
Lumbar/Sacral Transforaminal Epidural	64483	64483, +64484	
Cervical/Thoracic Facet Joint Block	64490	64490, + 64491, +64492, 0213T, +0214T, +0215T	
Lumbar/Sacral Facet Joint Block	64493	64493, +64494, +64495, 0216T, +0217T, +0218T	
Cervical/Thoracic Facet Joint Radiofrequency Neurolysis	64633	64633, +64634	
Lumbar/Sacral Facet Joint Radiofrequency Neurolysis	64635	64635, +64636	

# List of CPT Procedure Codes Requiring Prior Authorization (Spine Surgery)





## National Imaging Associates, Inc. (NIA)\* Wellcare 2024 Utilization Review Matrix Spine Surgery

	Primary			
Procedure Name	CPT Code	Allowable Billed Groupings	Additional Covered Procedures/Codes	Ancillary Procedures/Codes
•	e assumed to		codes that can be associated with each nen completed in combination, do not require	These codes do not require prior authorization. If the main procedure is approved, these codes are understood to be included and do not require precertification from the health plan.  *Please note: This is not an all-inclusive list of every possible ancillary code
Lumbar Microdiscectomy	63030	62380, 63030, +63035		
Lumbar Decompression	63047	63005, 63012, 63017, 63042, +63044, 63047, +63048, 63056, +63057	Microdiscectomy: 62380, 63030, +63035	
			Microdiscectomy: 62380, 63030, +63035	Instrumentation: +22840, +22841, +22842, +22845, +22853
	22612	22533, 22558, 22612, 22630, 22633, +63052, +63053	Decompression: 63005, 63012, 63017,	Bone Grafts: +20930, +20931, +20936
Lumbar Fusion - Single Level	22012	100002, 100000	63042, +63044, 63047, +63048, 63056, +63057	+20937, +20938

# List of CPT Procedure Codes Requiring Prior Authorization (Joint)





## National Imaging Associates, Inc. (NIA)\* Wellcare 2024 Utilization Review Matrix Joint Surgery

HIP SURGERY PROCEDURES			
Procedure Name	Primary CPT Code	Allowable Billed Groupings	Additional Covered Procedures/Codes
Authorization is provided at the <u>procedure</u> level. There are multiple CPT codes that can be associated with each procedure. These are assumed to be part of the primary 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	27130	27130, S2118	
Femoroacetabular Impingement (FAI) Hip Surgery	29914	29914, 29915, 29916	Loose Body Removal: 29861 Chondroplasty: 29862 Synovectomy: 29863
Hip Surgery – Other	29863	29860, 29861, 29862, 29863	

### Prior Authorization Process Overview



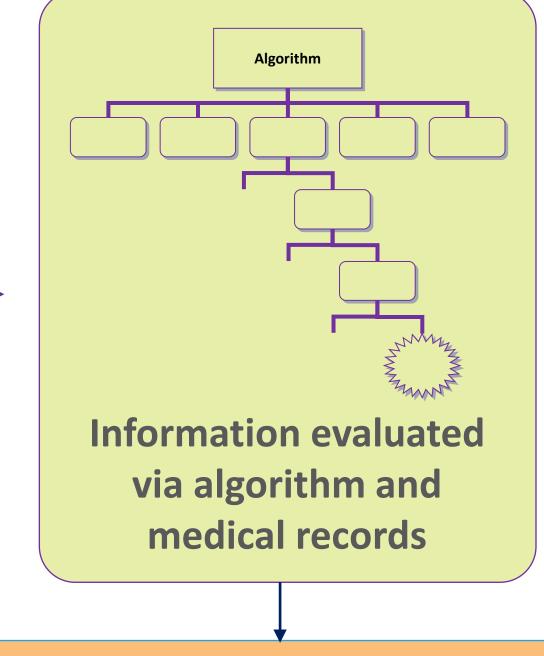
**Ordering Physician is** responsible for obtaining prior authorization. MSK provider may be both ordering and rendering

claims





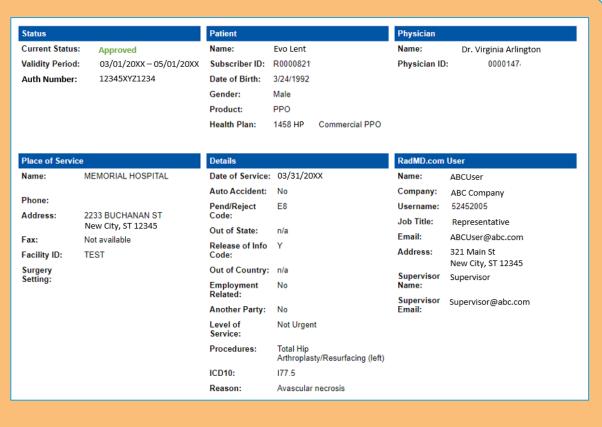
or by Phone





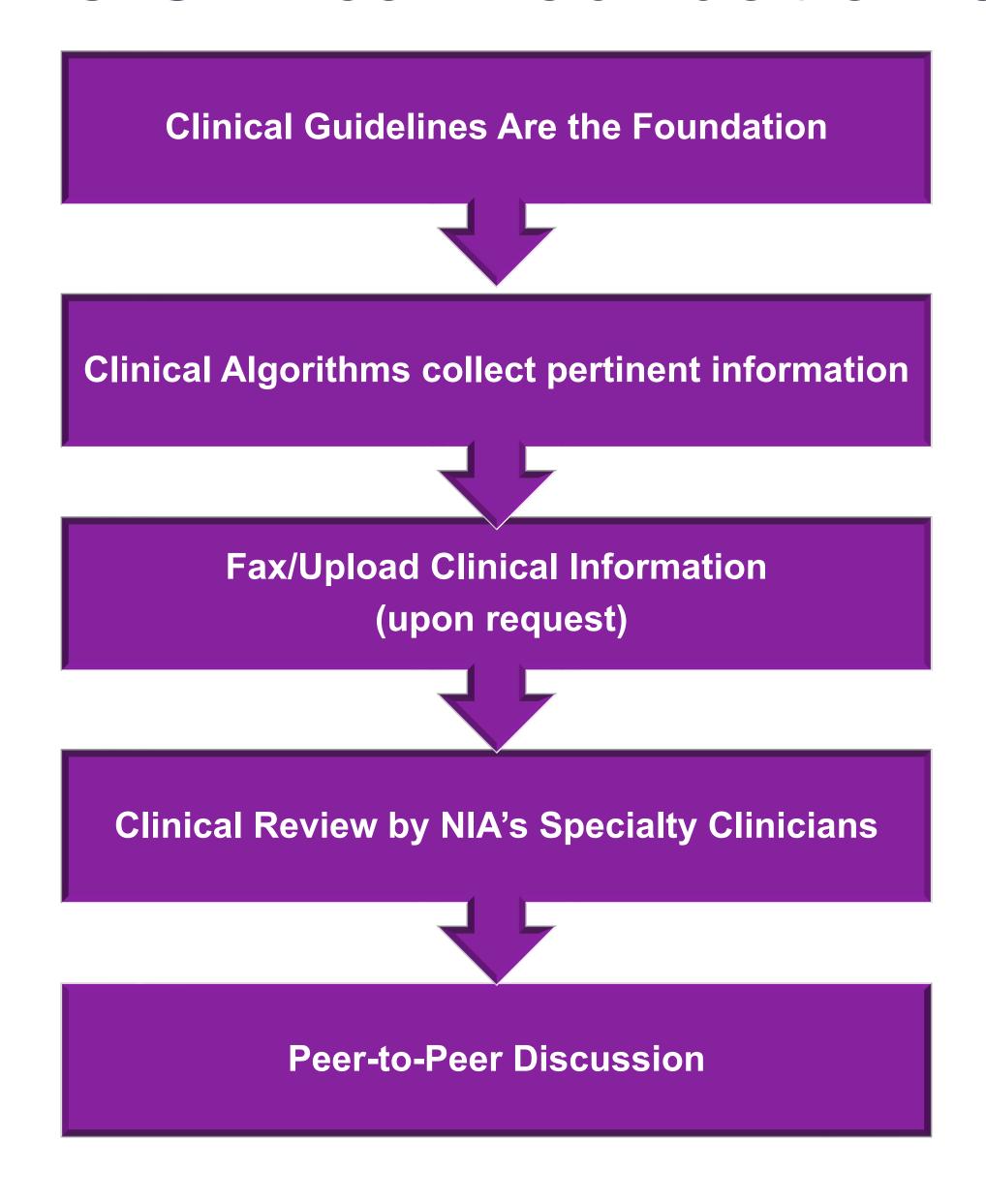


**Rendering Provider Performs Service and** ensures authorization was obtained



**Service Authorized** 

#### 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.

## Information for Authorization for IPM Injections

## Special Information

- Every IPM procedure performed requires a prior authorization; NIA does not pre-approve a series of epidural injections.
- Bi-lateral IPM injections performed on the same date of service do not require a separate authorization. An authorization will cover bi-lateral as well as multiple levels on the same date of service. (Please refer to guidelines for potential restrictions)
- Add on codes do not require separate authorization and are to be used in conjunction with approved primary code for the service rendered.

#### IPM Clinical Checklist Reminders

#### IPM Documentation:



#### **Conservative Treatment**

• Frequently, specifics of active conservative treatment/non-operative treatment are not present in office notes. Details such as duration and frequency should be provided in order to ensure 6 weeks has been attempted within the past 6 months. Official physical therapy records do not need to be obtained but the provider should supply a summary of these details. Physical therapy is not the only means of active conservative treatment acceptable; physician directed home exercise programs as well as chiropractic care are among other examples of appropriate treatments.



#### Visual Analog Scale (VAS) Score and/or Functional Disability

A VAS score is an acceptable method to relay intensity of pain. However, a description of functional disability is also accepted as a means for measuring pain (ie - noting that the member is no longer able to perform work duties, daily care, etc).



#### Follow Up To Prior Pain Management Procedures

• For repeat treatments, follow up is required in regard to what procedure was completed, how much and for how long relief was obtained, active participation in ongoing conservative treatment, and to what level the pain has returned. A follow up office visit is not required; documentation of telephone encounters with the member are acceptable to satisfy this requirement.

#### Sample Pain Rating Scales

Visual analogue scale (VAS) Worst pain No pain ever Numerical rating scale (NRS) PAIN SCORE 0-10 NUMERICAL RATING 0-10 Numerical Rating Scale Faces rating scale (FRS) Wong Baker Face Scale 2 3 4 5 HURTS HURTS HURTS HURTS
LITTLE BIT LITTLE MORE EVEN MORE WHOLE LOT

## Information for Authorization for Surgery Procedures

## Special Information

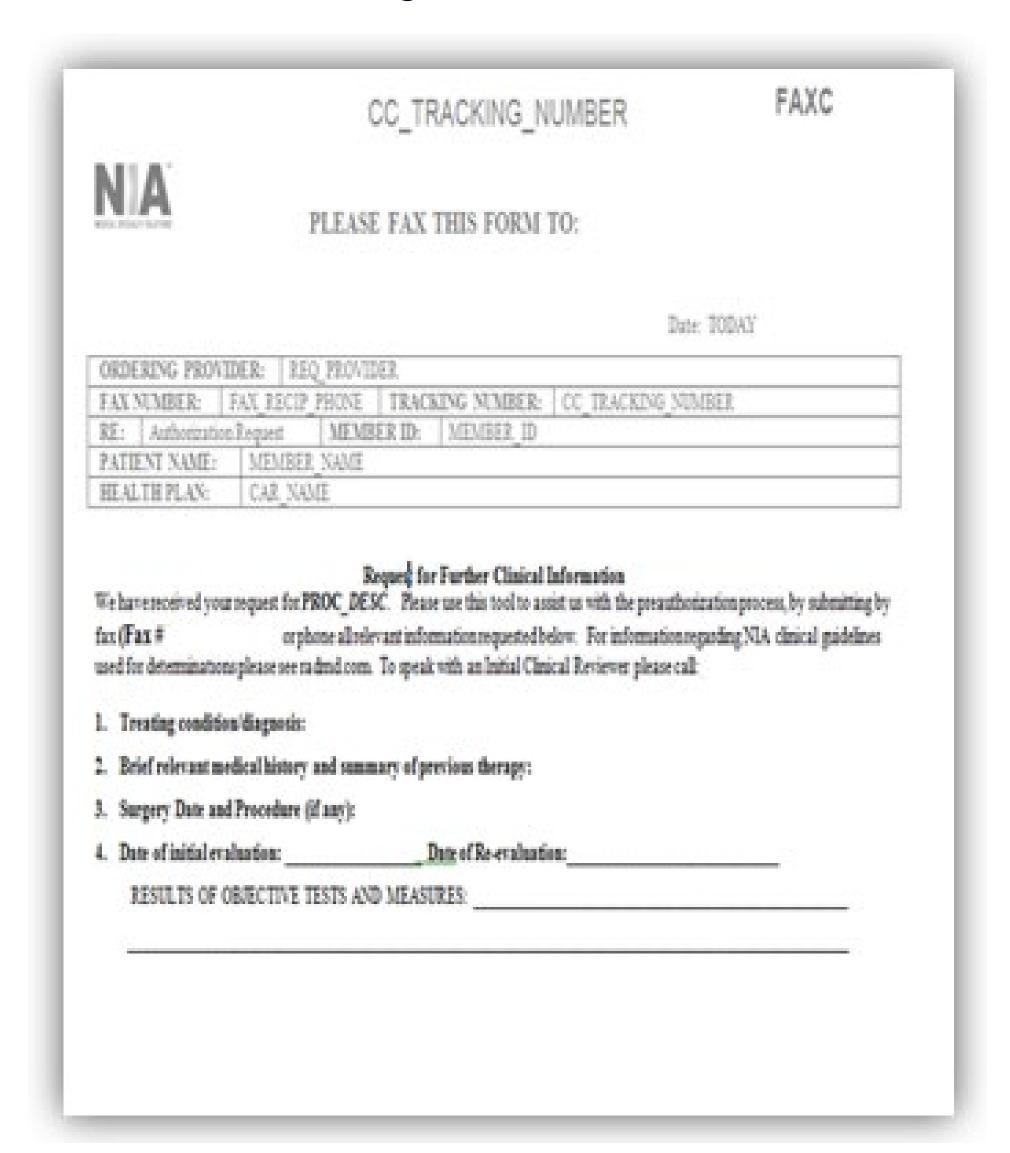
- Most surgeries require only one authorization request. NIA provides a list of surgery categories to choose from and the surgeon's office must select the most complex and invasive surgery being performed as the **primary** surgery.
  - Example 1: A lumbar fusion authorization includes decompression, instrumentation, etc.
  - Example 2: A knee ligament reconstruction includes meniscectomy, debridement, etc.
- Bilateral hip, knee, or shoulder surgeries require authorization for both the left and right side. ACDF and posterior cervical fusion require authorization for each procedure. These requests can be entered at the same time and will be reviewed concurrently.
- Inpatient admissions continue to be subject to concurrent review by Wellcare.
- Date of Service is required.
- The ordering physician must obtain prior authorization with NIA prior to performing the surgery/procedure.
- Facility admissions do not require a separate prior authorization. However, the facility should ensure that an NIA prior authorization has been obtained prior to scheduling the surgery/procedure.

## 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.



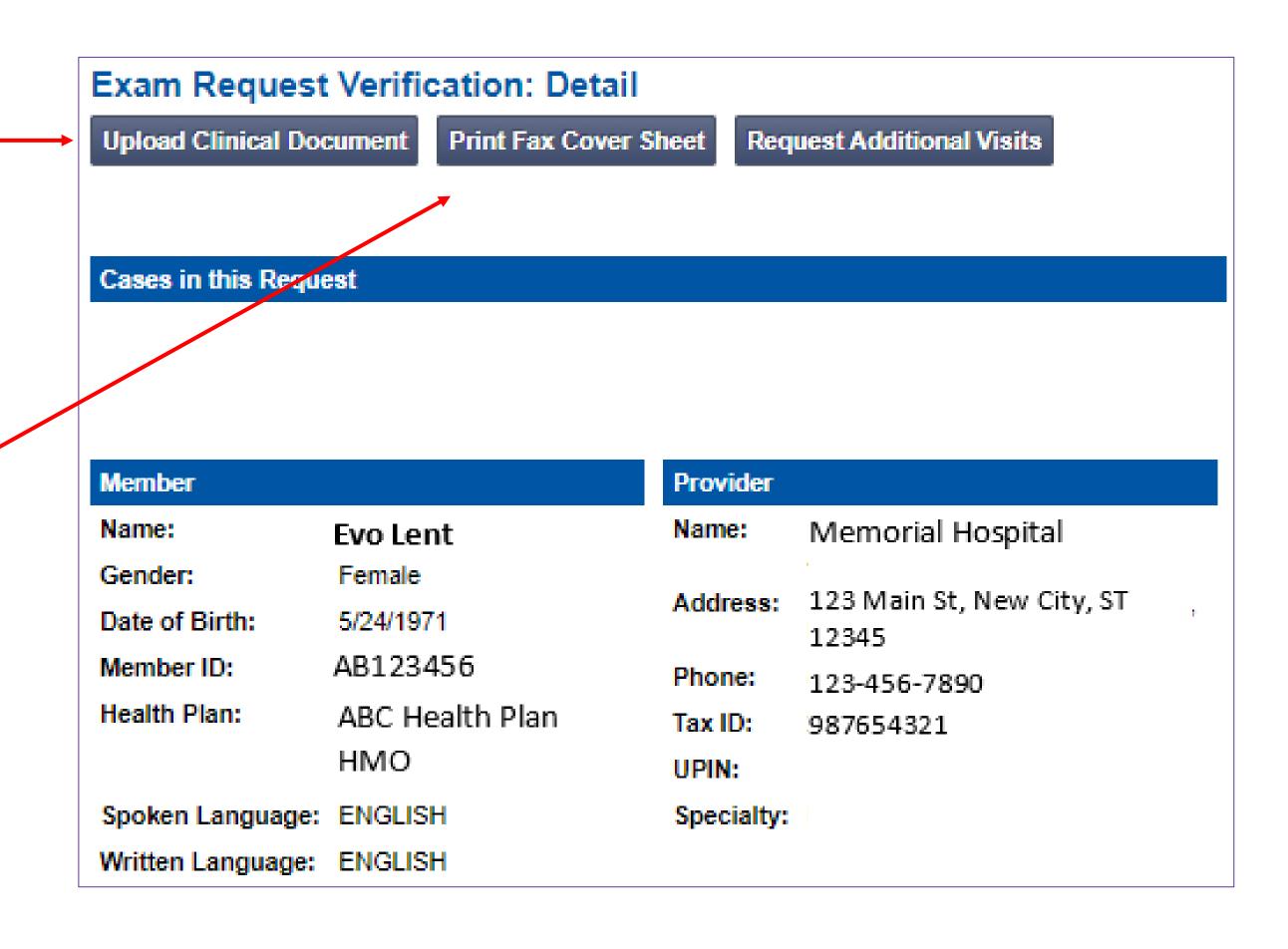
Determination timeframe begins after receipt of clinical information.



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

## Submitting Additional Clinical Information

- Records may be submitted:
  - Upload to <u>https://www.RadMD.com</u>
  - Fax using that NIA coversheet
- Location of Fax Coversheets:
  - Can be printed from https://www.RadMD.com
  - Call: 1-800-424-5388
- Use the case specific fax coversheets when faxing clinical information to NIA



## Clinical Specialty Team: Focused on IPM and MSK



#### **IPM Reviews**

Initial clinical review performed by specially trained IPM nurses

Clinical review team will proactively reach out for additional clinical information

Anesthesiologists and pain management specialists conduct clinical reviews and peer-to-peer discussions on IPM requests



#### **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

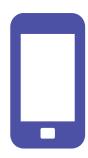
#### MSK Clinical Review Process

### 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.

Key NIA
Differentiators

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

Additional clinical information required

NIA Specialty Physician Reviewers

• 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-topeer
- Physician denies case based on medical criteria

Generally, the turnaround time for completion of these requests is within two or 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 <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 1-800-424-5388.
- Turnaround time is within 1 Business Day not to exceed 2 Calendar Days.

### Notification of Determination

#### **Authorization Notification**

- Validity Period Authorizations are valid for:
   IPM
  - 6 months from date of request.

#### Surgical

- Inpatient 6 months from date of request
- Outpatient- SDC/Ambulatory 6 months from date of request
- The date of service/request that is selected at the time of the prior authorization request, will be used to determine the validity period. If the date of service/request 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.
- Timeframe for reconsideration/re-review is 45 calendar days from the date of denial and prior to submitting a formal appeal.
- In the event of a denial, providers are required to follow the instructions provided in their denial letter.

### IPM Points



Injections in all regions of spine are managed



Date of Service is required for all requests



Each IPM procedure must be prior authorized



No series of epidural injections



Specialty Nurses and Physicians will review IPM requests

## 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 – Hip, Knee and Shoulder Surgery



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. ACDF and posterior cervical fusion require authorization for each procedure. 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

## 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 Wellcare.



Wellcare 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. Once an authorization has been obtained for the procedure/surgery, Wellcare will reach out to the rendering provider to authorize the facility in which the procedure will be performed.



Authorizations are valid for 6 months from the date of request. 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 Medicare: 1-800-424-5388



Available
Monday - Friday
5:00 AM - 7:00 PST

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

- 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 accessing RadMD is required to have their own separate username and password due to HIPAA regulations.

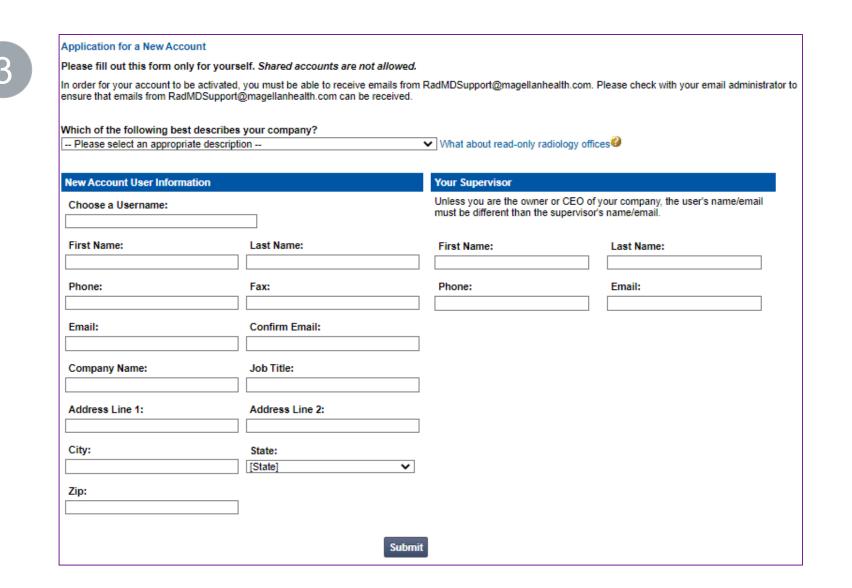
- 1. Click the "New User" button on the right side of the home page.
- 2. Select "Physician's office that orders procedures"
- 3. Fill out the application and click the "Submit" button.
  - You must include your e-mail address in order for our Webmaster to respond to you with your NIA-approved username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

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

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 accessing RadMD 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:**

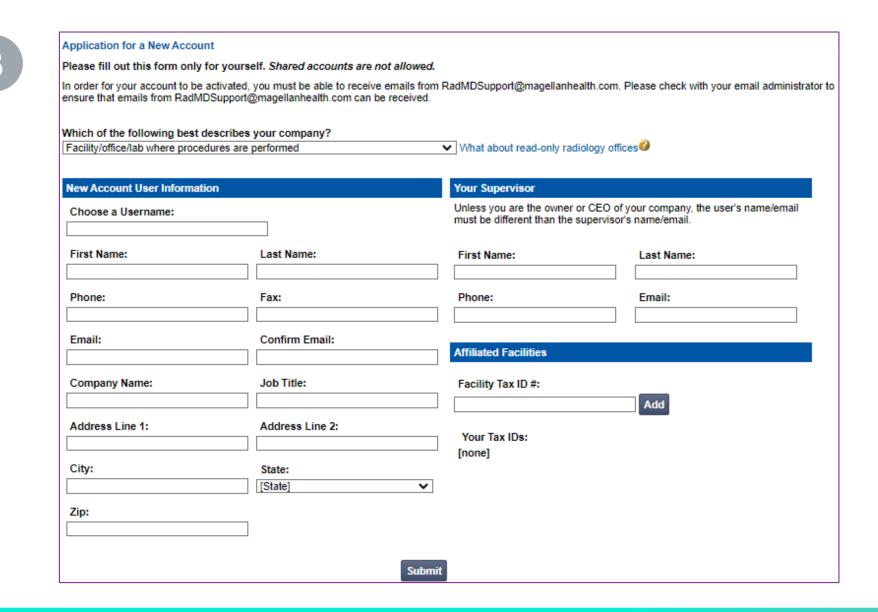
- 1. Click the "New User" button on the right side of the home page.
- 2. Select "Facility/office where procedures are performed"
- 3. Fill out the application and click the "Submit" button.
  - You must include your e-mail address in order for our Webmaster to respond to you with your NIA-approved username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

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 Clinical Guidelines			
(including Cardiac, Ultrasound, Sleep Assessment) 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 View All My Requests	Tracking Number: Forgot Tracking I	Search 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	<ul> <li>Website, <a href="https://www.RadMD.com">https://www.RadMD.com</a></li> <li>Toll-free number: 1-800-424-5388</li> <li>Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System</li> </ul>
Initiating a Peer-to-Peer Consultation	■ Call: 1-800-424-5388
Provider Service Line	<ul> <li>RadMDSupport@magellanhealth.com</li> <li>Call 1-800-327-0641</li> </ul>
Provider Education requests or questions specific to NIA	<ul> <li>Debbie Patterson</li> <li>Provider Relations Manager</li> <li>1-314-387-4799</li> <li>DPatterson@evolent.com</li> </ul>

### 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 Wellcare Health Insurance Company of Washington, Inc. (Wellcare) 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 disclosed to others at any time without the prior written consent of Wellcare and National Imaging Associates, Inc. (NIA).



## Thanks!