

## Wellcare (Louisiana) Musculoskeletal (MSK) Management Program

Provider Training Presented by: Priscilla Singleton Manager, Provider Relations



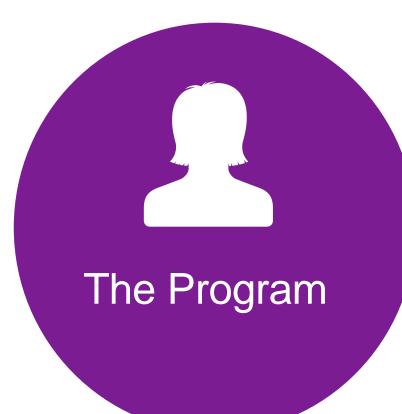
# National Imaging Associates, Inc. (NIA)\* Program Agenda

### 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."

## MSK Prior Authorization Program



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



- Program start date:March 01, 2024
- Begin obtaining authorizations from NIA on March 01,2024 for services rendered on or after March 01, 2024
- Wellcare and NIA will honor authorizations approved prior to and extending beyond March 1, 2024.



 Outpatient, interventional spine pain management (IPM) services, Inpatient and outpatient hip, knee, shoulder, lumbar and cervical spine surgeries



- Medicare
- Surgery Center
- In Office
- Hospital



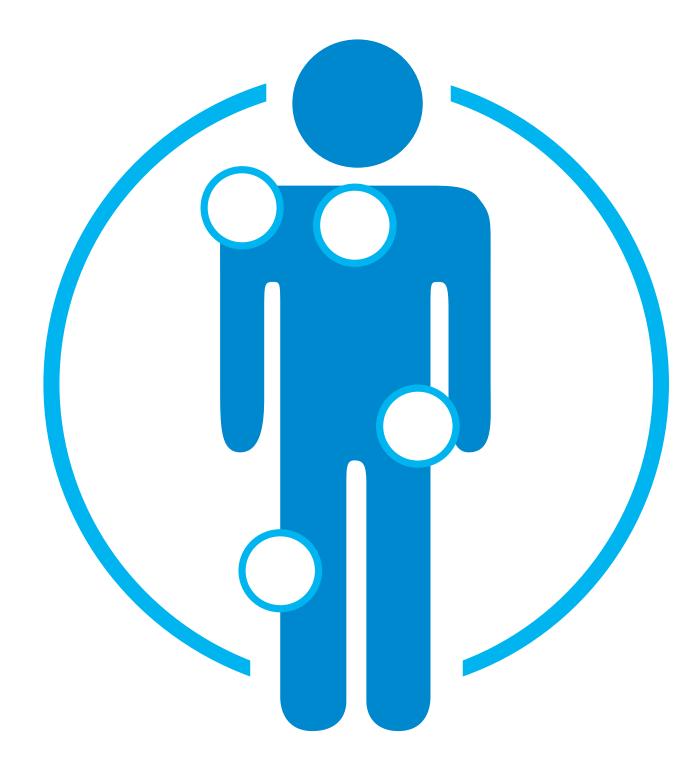
NIA will manage services through Wellcare contractual relationships.

## Interventional Pain Management (IPM)



### IPM Procedures Performed Outpatient or In-Office

- Spinal Epidural Injections
- Paravertebral Facet Joint Injections or Blocks
- Paravertebral Facet Joint Denervation (Radiofrequency (RF) Neurolysis)
- Sacroiliac Joint Injections
- Spinal Cord Stimulator \*\*Effective 3.1.2024\*\*
- Sympathetic Nerve Blocks





### IPM Procedures Performed in these Settings are Excluded:

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

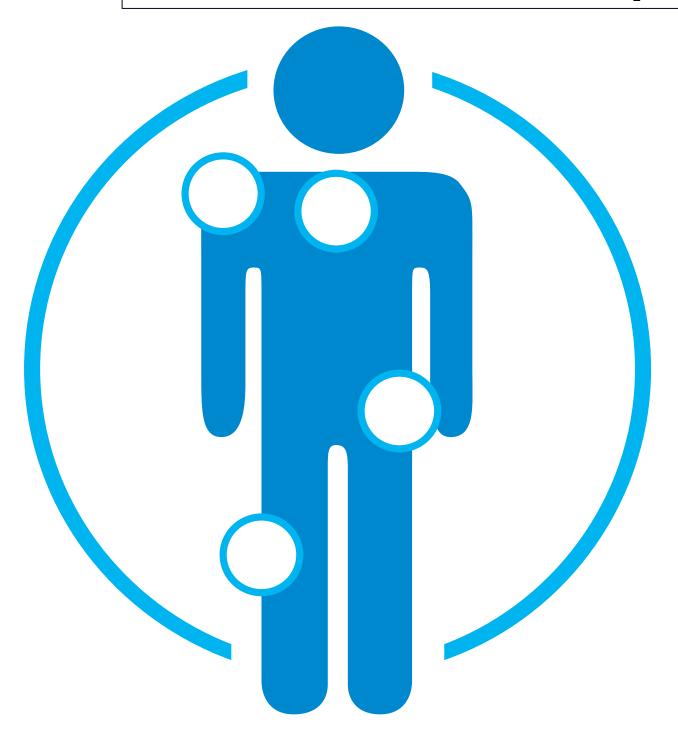
Wellcare network providers are the preferred providers for delivering MSK services to Wellcare members.

## Lumbar and Cervical Spine Surgery

### **Lumbar and Cervical Spine Surgeries Performed Inpatient and Outpatient**

- 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 March 01,2024, Require Prior Authorization. NIA's Call Center and RadMD will open March 01, 2024.





### Surgery Performed in this Setting is Excluded:

Emergency Surgery –
 admitted via the
 Emergency Room

Reconstructive spinal deformity surgery does not require prior authorization. However, NIA will monitor provider use of CPT codes 22800-22819.

## Hip, Knee and Shoulder Surgery

#### **Hip Surgeries Performed Inpatient and Outpatient**

- 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)

#### **Knee Surgeries Performed Inpatient and Outpatient**

- 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)



#### **Shoulder Surgeries Performed Inpatient and Outpatient**

- 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)



#### **Surgery Performed in this Setting is Excluded:**

 Emergency Surgery – admitted via the Emergency Room

## CPT Codes Requiring Prior Authorization (IPM)







- Located on RadMD.com.
- Defer to Wellcare Policies for Procedures not on Claims/Utilization Review Matrix.





### Wellcare Medicare (Louisiana) Utilization Review Matrix 2024 Outpatient Interventional Pain Management (IPM)

The matrix below contains the CPT 4 codes for which National Imaging Associates (NIA)\* authorizes on behalf of Wellcare.

NIA issues authorizations based on the primary CPT code and its allowable billed groupings. A procedure can be billed under any one of the given CPT codes for that allowable billed grouping as long as a valid authorization number has been issued within the validity period.

\*Please note: IPM services rendered in an Emergency Room, Observation Room Intraoperatively, or as a Hospital Inpatient are not managed by NIA.

Procedure Name	Primary CPT Code	Allowable Billed Groupings
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
Sacroiliac Joint Injection	27096	27096, G0260
Spinal Cord Stimulator Trial	63650	63650, 63655
Spinal Cord Stimulator	63655	63650, 63655, 63661, 63662, 63663, 63664, 63685, 63688
Sympathetic Nerve Block	64510	64510, 64517, 64520, 64530

1-Wellcare Medicare - IPM Matrix - Eff 03.01.2024.

## CPT Codes Requiring Prior Authorization (Joint)







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





### Wellcare Utilization Review Matrix 2024 Musculoskeletal Surgery (Hip, Knee, and Shoulder)

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	

## CPT Codes Requiring Prior Authorization (Spine)





## Wellcare Utilization Review Matrix 2024 Musculoskeletal Surgery (Spine)

	Di		IE SURGERY PROCEDURES	
Procedure Name	Primary CPT Code	Allowable Billed Groupings	Additional Covered Procedures/Codes	Ancillary Procedures/Codes
•	e assumed to	<u> </u>	codes that can be associated with each en 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
Cervical Anterior Decompression (without fusion)	63075	63075, +63076		Vertebral Corpectomy: 63081, +63082, 63300, 63304, +63308 Instrumentation: +22859
Cervical ACDF - Anterior Cervical Decompression with Fusion - Single Level	22551	22548, 22551, 22554	Decompression: 63075, +63076  Removal of Artificial Disc: 22864	Vertebral Corpectomy: 63081, +63082, 63300, 63304, +63308 Instrumentation: +22845, 22853, 22854 Bone Grafts: +20930, +20931, +2093

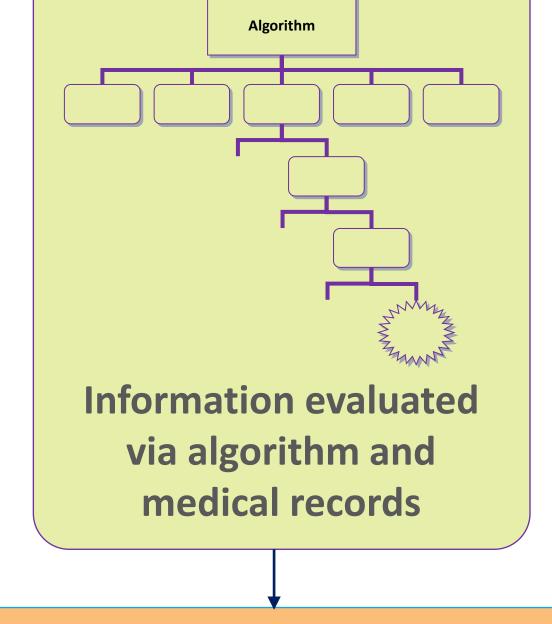
### Prior Authorization Process Overview

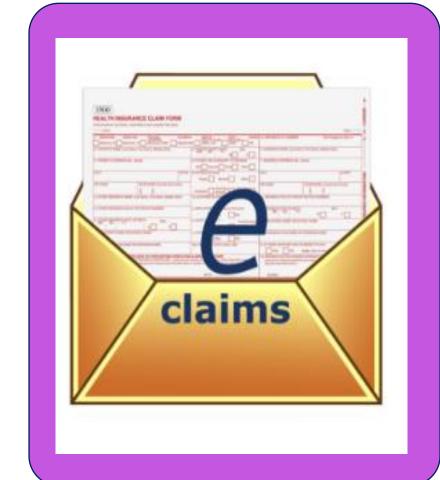


Ordering Physician is responsible for obtaining prior authorization.
MSK provider may be both ordering and rendering



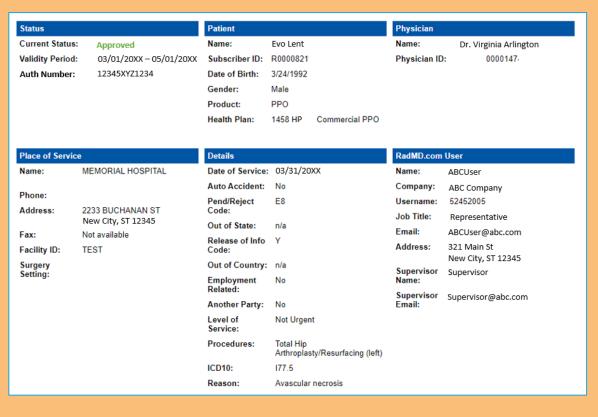






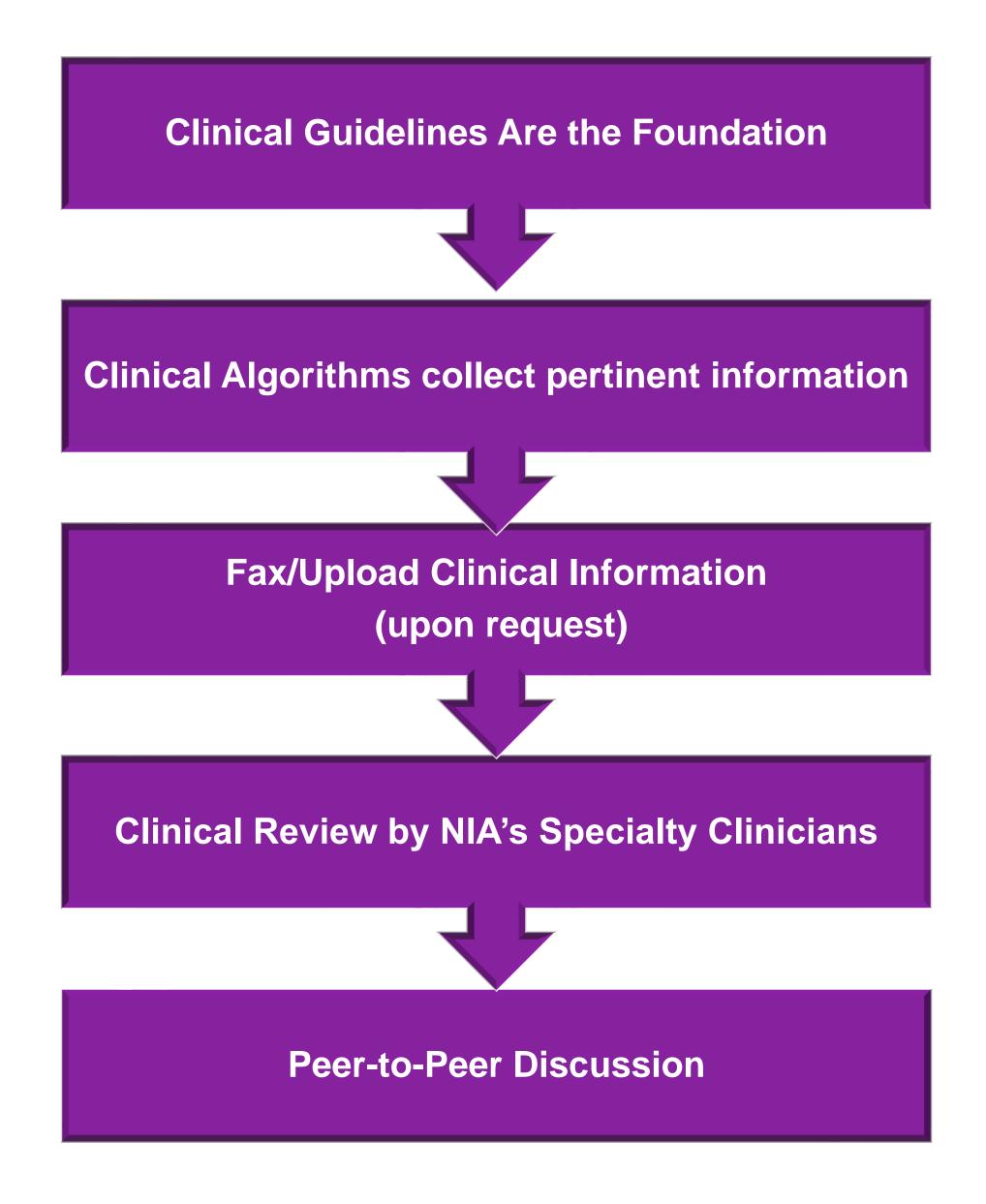


Rendering Provider verifies authorization was obtained and provides service



**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 Wellcare and NIA Medical Officers and clinical experts. Clinical Guidelines are available on <a href="RadMD.com">RadMD.com</a> \*\*CMS Guidelines \*\*
- 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.

### Authorization for IPM

## Special Information

- Every IPM procedure performed requires a prior authorization; NIA will not authorize 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 clinical guidelines for potential restrictions)
- Add on codes do not require separate authorization and are to be used in conjunction with the 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

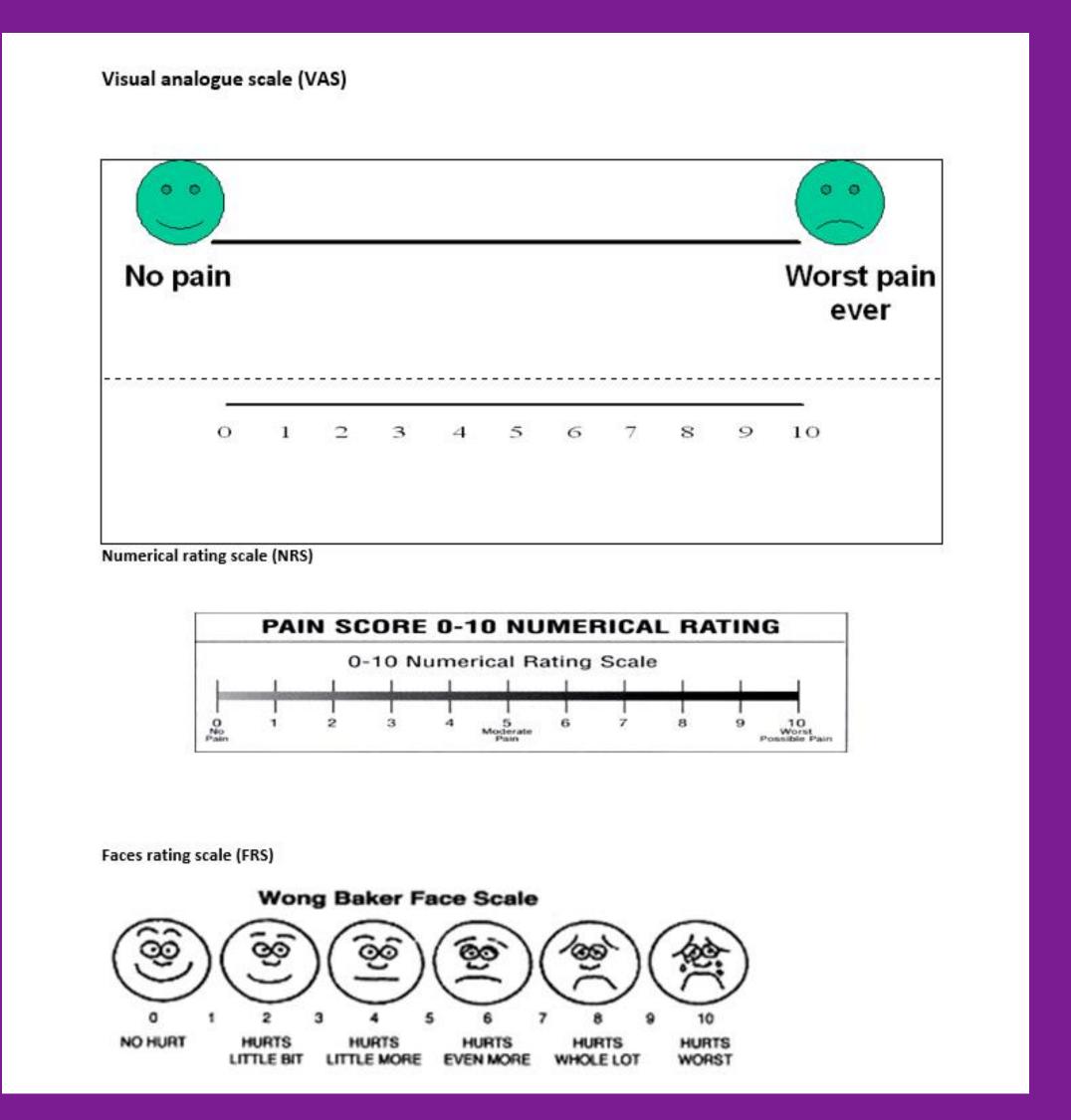
 A VAS score is an acceptable method to relay intensity of pain. However, a description of functional disability is also accepted as a means for measuring pain (ie - noting that the member is no longer able to perform work duties, daily care, etc).



#### 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.

#### Visual Analogue Scale (VAS) and Faces Rating Scale (FRS)



### Authorization for Surgery

## Special Information

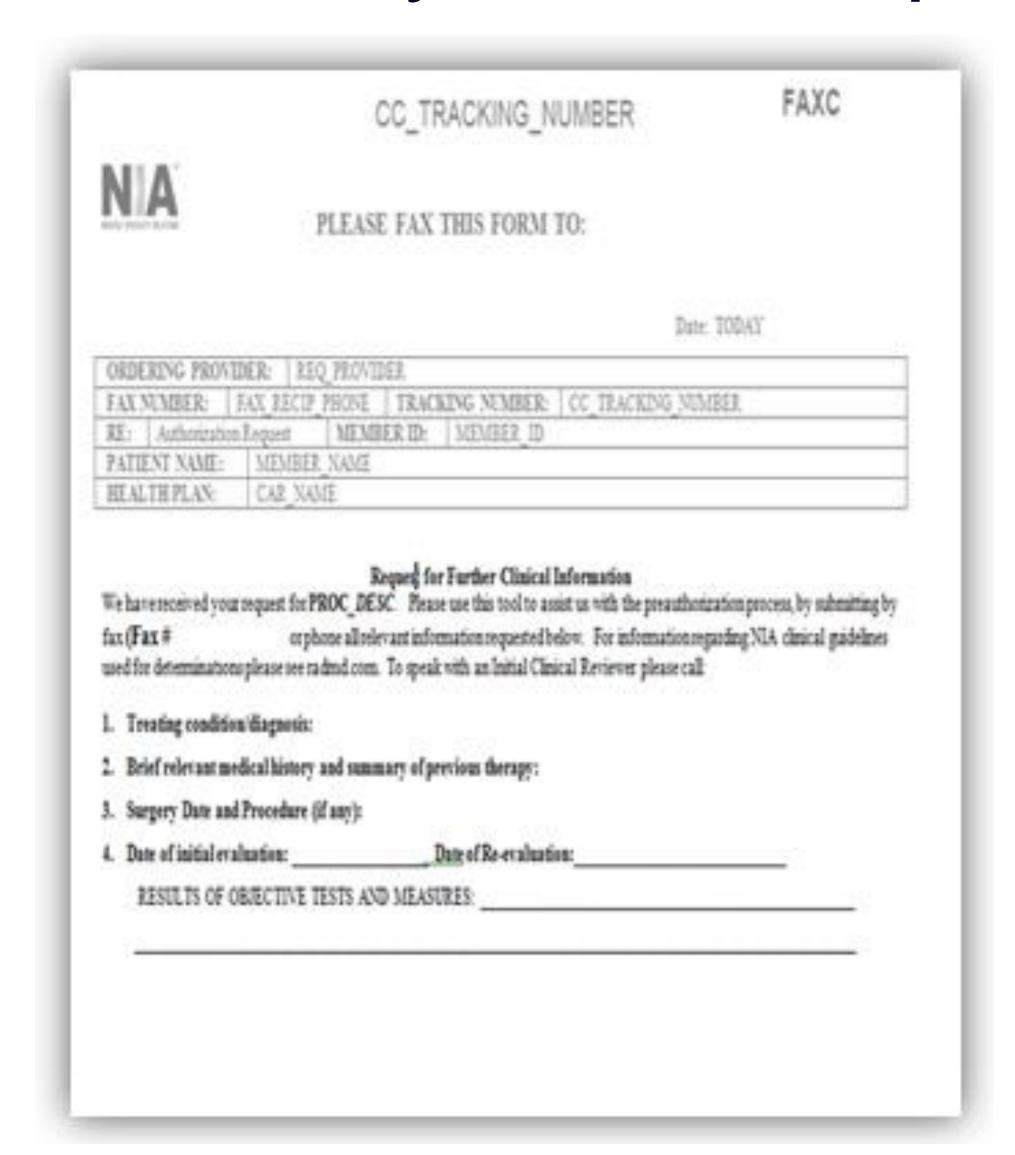
- Most surgeries require only one authorization request. NIA provides a list of surgery categories to choose from and the surgeon's office must select the most complex and invasive surgery being performed as the **primary** surgery.
  - Example 1: A lumbar fusion authorization includes decompression, 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.



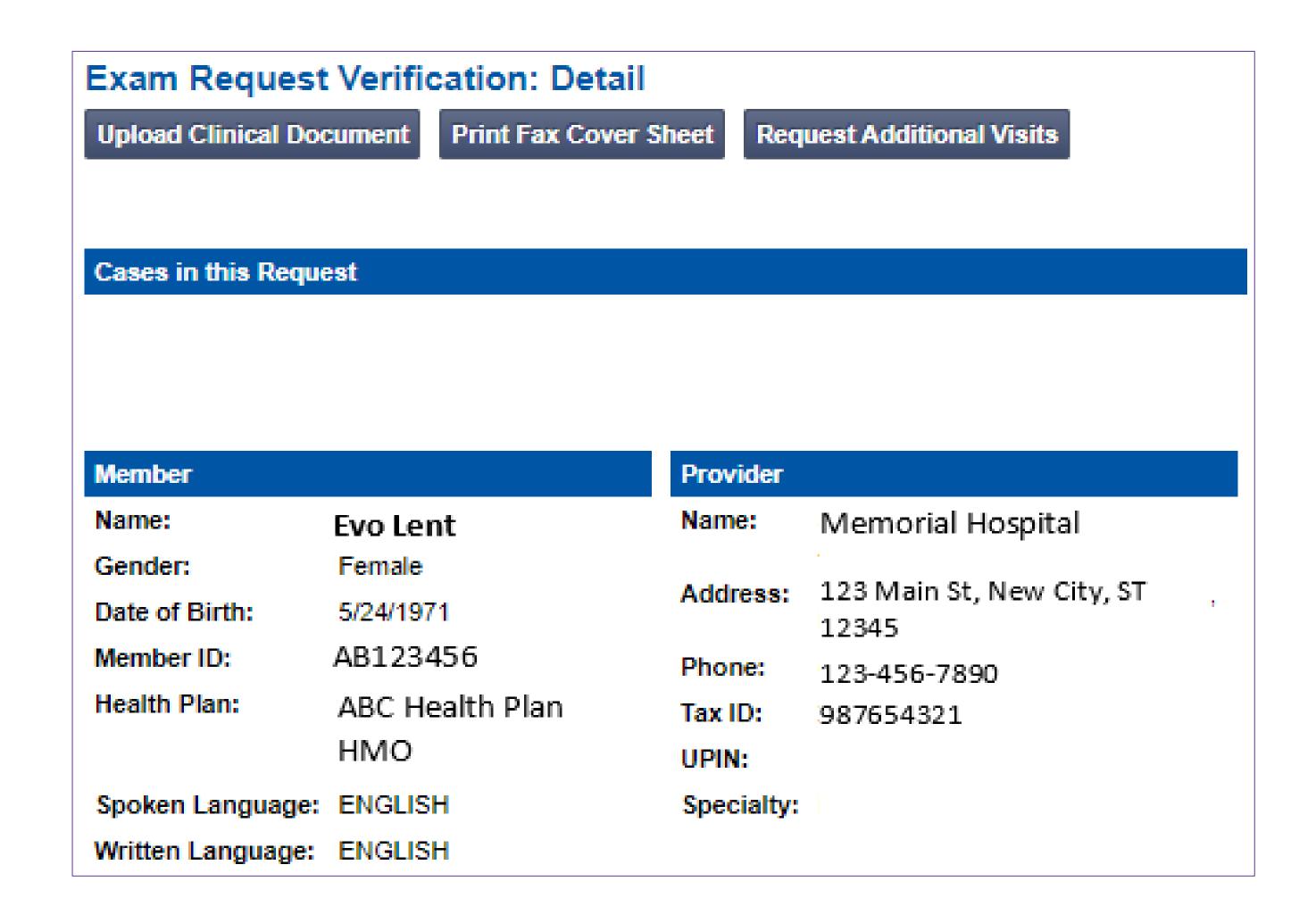
Determination timeframe begins after receipt of clinical information.



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 NIA coversheet
- Location of Fax Coversheets:
  - Can be printed from https://www.RadMD.com
  - Call
  - **1**-800-424-5388
- Use the case specific fax coversheet when faxing clinical information to NIA



### Clinical Specialty Team: Focused on IPM and MSK



#### **IPM Review**

Initial clinical review performed by specially trained IPM nurses

Clinical review team will contact provider for additional clinical information

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



### **MSK Surgery Review**

Initial clinical review performed by specialty trained surgery nurses

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

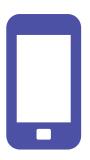
### MSK Clinical Review Process

### 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.

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### Request Evaluated Based on Information Entered

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

Key NIA Differentiators

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

### 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:
  - **1**-800-424-5388
- Turnaround time is within 1 calendar hours not to exceed 72 calendar hours.

### Notification of Determination

#### **Authorization Notification**

Validity Period - Authorizations are valid for:

#### **IPM**

30 days from date of request

#### Surgical

- Inpatient 90 days from date of service
- Outpatient- SDC/Ambulatory 90 days from date of service
- 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.
- Medicare re-opens are not available.
- In the event of a denial, providers are asked 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 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.



Reconstructive spinal deformity surgery does not require prior authorization. However, NIA will monitor provider use of CPT codes 22800-22819.

## MSK Surgery Points – Hip, Knee and Shoulder Surgery



Bilateral hip, knee, or shoulder 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 MSK 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 & foreign body removal.

## MSK Surgery Points – All Surgeries



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



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.



Authorizations are valid for 30 days from the date of the request for IPM and 90 days from the date of service for MSK. 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 Friday of the month from 12:00 AM – 3:00 AM ET)



**Toll-Free Numbers** 1-800-424-5388



**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 Website

#### https://www.RadMD.com

#### RadMD Functionality varies by user:

- Ordering Provider's Office View and submit requests for authorization.
- Rendering Provider View approved, pended and in review authorizations for their facility.
- IPM providers are typically both the ordering and the rendering provider.

#### Online Tools Available on RadMD

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



## RadMD New User Application Process - Ordering

Users are required to have their own separate usernames and passwords due to HIPAA regulations.

#### STEPS:

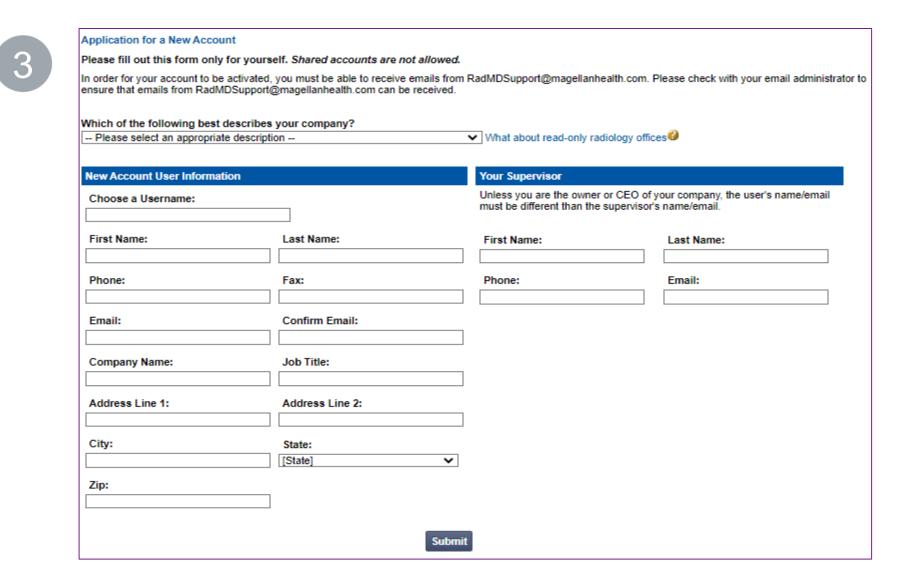
- 1. Click the "New User" button on the right side of the home page.
- 2. Select "Physician's office that orders procedures"
- 3. Complete the application and click "Submit".
- 4. Open email from NIA webmaster with new user password instructions

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

Offices that are both ordering and rendering procedures should request ordering provider access. This will allow you to request authorization on RadMD and see the status of 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.)



## RadMD New User Application Process - Rendering

#### **IMPORTANT**

- Users are required to have their own separate username and password due to HIPAA regulations.
- Designate an "Administrator" for the facility who manages access for users.

#### **STEPS:**

- 1. Click the "New User" button on the right side of the home page.
- 2. Select "Facility/office where procedures are performed"
- 3. Complete the application and click "Submit".
- 4. Open email from NIA webmaster with new user password instructions.

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

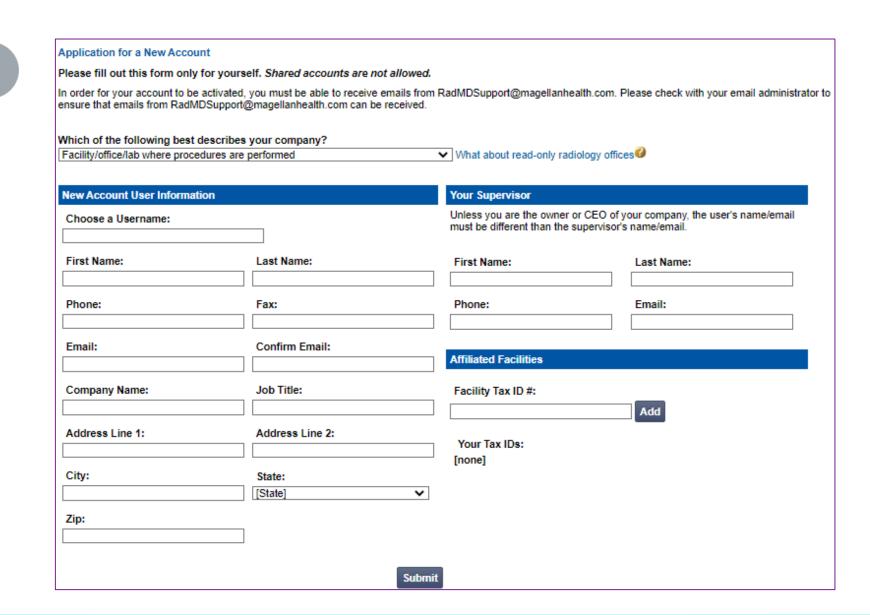
If multiple staff members entering authorizations need to view approved, pended, and in-review authorization requests, they will each need to complete and submit a new user application. The account administrator is responsible for granting rendering access for each employee.



-- 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.)



### 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	Request access to Tax ID			
Initiate a Subsequent Request 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

Initiating or checking the status of an authorization request	<ul> <li>Website, <a href="https://www.RadMD.com">https://www.RadMD.com</a> <a href="https://www.RadMD.com">1-800-424-5388</a> </li> <li>Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System</li> </ul>
Initiating a Peer-to-Peer Consultation	<ul><li>Call: 1-800-424-5388</li></ul>
Provider Service Line	<ul><li>RadMDSupport@evolent.com</li><li>Call 1-800-327-0641</li></ul>
Provider Education requests or questions specific to NIA	<ul> <li>Priscilla Singleton</li> <li>Provider Relations Manager</li> <li>314-387-5023</li> <li>PSingleton@evolent.com</li> </ul>



## Thanks!



### Confidentiality Statement

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