



Sunflower Health Plan Physical Therapy Prior Authorization Quick Reference Guide for Providers

Revised April 1, 2024

Evolent (formerly National Imaging Associates, Inc.) provides Utilization Management for outpatient rehabilitative and habilitative Physical Therapy services on behalf of Sunflower Health Plan. This program is consistent with industry-wide efforts to manage the increasing utilization of these services and to ensure quality of care. All providers will be required to obtain prior authorizations for Physical Therapy services.

The Evolent outpatient rehabilitative and habilitative Physical Therapy Service Prior Authorization program will begin on June 1, 2020. The Evolent Call Center will be available beginning June 1, 2020 for prior authorization for dates of service June 1, 2020 and beyond. Any services rendered on or after June 1, 2020 will require authorization.

The Evolent program is managed through Sunflower Health Plan’s contractual relationships with providers who deliver outpatient (what about other places of services?) Physical Therapy services. Evolent conducts medical necessity reviews of requested services only.

Prior Authorization

Providers must obtain prior authorization for the Physical Therapy procedures listed within 5 business days from rendering these services.

Services Requiring Authorization:	Outpatient Therapy Services for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Therapy
The review is focused on therapy services performed in the following settings:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outpatient Office • Outpatient Hospital

- **Therapy provided in Hospital ER, Inpatient and Observation status, Acute Rehab Hospital Inpatient, and Inpatient and Outpatient Skilled Nursing Facility settings are excluded from this program.**
- CPT codes billed for Physical Therapy initial evaluations do not require an authorization for participating providers. However, all other billed codes, even if performed on the same date as the initial evaluation date will require authorization prior to billing.
- **8 Physical Therapy visits will be automatically approved for each member per calendar year and will require registration with Evolent through RadMD or the Call Center.**

Submitting Prior Authorization Requests

- Providers are encouraged to utilize www.RadMD.com to request prior authorization for Physical Therapy services. If a provider is unable to use RadMD, they may call 1-877-644-4623.

Information Needed to Submit Prior Authorization Requests

To expedite the prior authorization process, please have the appropriate information ready before logging into Evolent's Website, www.RadMD.com or calling Evolent's Call Center.

- Name, address, and TIN of the facility that will be used for billing the service.
- Member name, ID number, and date of birth
- Requesting/Rendering Provider Type - PT
- Name of office or facility where the service will be performed
- Date of initial evaluation
- ICD-10 code(s)
- Details justifying therapy
 - Initial Evaluation or Re-evaluation findings
 - Past medical history
 - Patient symptoms
 - Prior treatment received for the same condition
 - Functional Outcome/Standardized Test Scores
 - Baseline functional status and Impairments
 - Objective tests and measures
 - Specific functional goals
 - Interventions to be utilized
 - Plan of Care/Treatment Plan
 - Requested number of visits

Website Access

- **To get started**, go to www.RadMD.com, click the New User button and submit a RadMD Application for New Account by selecting **“Physical Medicine Practitioner.”**
- You can request prior authorization at www.RadMD.com by clicking the **“Request Physical Therapy”** link which is a part of your main menu options.
- Additional services on an existing authorization can be requested using the **“Initiate a Subsequent Request”** link using RadMD
- RadMD is available 24/7, except when maintenance is performed every third Thursday of the month from 9 pm – midnight PST.
- **Pended requests:** If you are requesting prior authorizations through the Evolent website and your request pends, you will receive a tracking number. You will then be required to submit additional clinical information to complete the process.
- **Authorization status:** You can check on the status of prior authorizations quickly and easily by using the **“View Request Status”** link on RadMD's main menu. In addition to the ability to view clinical documentation received by Evolent, users can view links to case-specific communication to include requests for additional information and determination letters.
- **The “Track an Authorization”** feature will allow users who did not submit the original request to view the status of an authorization, as well as upload clinical information. This option is also available as a part of your main menu options using the **“Search by Tracking Number”** feature. A tracking number is required with this feature.

Telephone Access

- Call center hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. CST. You may obtain a prior authorization request by calling Evolent at 1-877-644-4623.
- If you have questions or need more information about this Physical Therapy prior authorization program, you may contact the Evolent Provider Service Line at: 1-800-327-0641.

Submitting Claims

- Please continue to submit claims to Sunflower Health Plan as you currently do today.
- We strongly encourage EDI claims submission.

Important Notes

- **The authorization number or request ID** consists of alpha-numeric characters (i.e., 12345ABC123). In some cases, the ordering provider may instead receive a tracking number (i.e., 123456789) if the provider's authorization request is not approved at the time of initial contact.
- **Multiple Physical Therapy Requests:** Evolent can accept multiple requests on RadMD or during one phone call.
- **Clinical Guidelines: Evolent** issues authorizations in accordance with the Evolent Clinical Guidelines and Milliman Care Guidelines for Physical Therapy. A link to these clinical guidelines can be found on www.RadMD.com under "Online Tools/Clinical Guidelines." Evolent Guidelines for Physical Therapy services are based on evidence-based research, generally accepted industry standards and best practice guidelines established by the corresponding national organizations.
- **Complaints/Appeals:** For prior authorization complaints/appeals, please follow the instructions on your denial letter or Explanation of Payment (EOP).
- **Member Eligibility:** To verify member eligibility, including benefit information, please call the Provider/Customer Service line on the back of the member's ID card.
- **A prior authorization number is not a guarantee of payment.** Whether the requested service is covered is subject to all the terms and conditions of the member's benefit plan, including but not limited to, member eligibility, benefit coverage at the time services are provided and any pre-existing condition exclusions referenced in the member's benefit plan.
- **Balance Billing:** Payment will be denied for Physical Therapy procedures performed without a necessary prior authorization, and the member cannot be balance-billed for such services.
- **Provider Relations Assistance:** To educate your staff on Evolent procedures and to assist you with any provider issues or concerns, contact your Sunflower Health Plan or Evolent Provider Relations Representative.