



January 1, 2025

Dear Provider,

Wellcare (Medicare - Iowa) has partnered with Evolent (formerly National Imaging Associates, Inc), a comprehensive Musculoskeletal (MSK) Surgery Quality Management Company, to implement a new prior authorization program. This program is intended to help providers effectively deliver quality patient care.

**Effective January 1, 2025**, MSK surgeries will require prior authorization through Evolent prior to being rendered in outpatient/inpatient hospital or surgery center settings (planned professional services only). This prior authorization management program will apply to **Wellcare members of all ages**.

Evolent uses clinical criteria based on nationally recognized guidelines to promote evidence-based practices. Providers may begin contacting Evolent on January 1, 2025, to seek prior authorization for procedures scheduled on or after January 1, 2025.

**The Evolent program will apply to all specialties for the following non-emergent inpatient and outpatient MSK surgeries:**

#### **Hip**

- 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 extra-articular arthroscopy knee)

#### **Knee**

- 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

- 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, claviclectomy, diagnostic shoulder arthroscopy)

## Lumbar

- Lumbar Microdiscectomy
- Lumbar Decompression (Laminotomy, Laminectomy, Facetomy & Foraminotomy)
- Lumbar Spine Fusion (Arthrodesis) With or Without Decompression – Single & Multiple Levels
- Sacroiliac Joint Fusion

## Cervical

- 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
- Cervical Anterior Decompression (without fusion)

Prior authorization requests for MSK surgeries can be submitted to Evolent:

- Via Evolent provider portal at [RadMD.com](https://www.radmd.com)
- Via telephone at 1-800-424-5388. Staff is available Monday - Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. CST.


[RadMD](https://www.radmd.com) offers providers the ability to:


- Request prior authorization and verify authorization status.
- Upload required clinical documentation and view submitted files.
- Access clinical guidelines, checklists and additional provider resources and tools.
- Identify the dedicated Evolent Provider Solutions Manager to use as a direct point-of-contact for any issues or questions.


Facility admissions do not require a separate prior authorization. However, the facility should ensure that an Evolent prior authorization has been obtained prior to scheduling the surgery/procedure.


Wellcare approvals issued before January 1, 2025, are effective until the authorization end date. Upon expiration, authorization requests must be submitted to Evolent. If authorization is not obtained from Evolent, claims may be denied. For services/treatment that did not require an authorization prior to January 1, 2025, an authorization may be required from Evolent for service/treatment dates on and after January 1, 2025.

Wellcare is proud to be your healthcare partner. If you frequently request Musculoskeletal Surgery services and are new to this process, please register for a training session.

 December 4, 2024 – 8 am CT  
<https://zoom.us/j/91453258240?pwd=aZUIPkxXgjCbr5fRdQh2wgDV6pAqIV.1>  
Meeting ID: 914 5325 8240  
Passcode: 377879

 December 10, 2024 – 12 pm CT  
<https://zoom.us/j/92361419692?pwd=ax7fLbz8aJWmXeAb91QO0qIYCpB2Nm.1>  
Meeting ID: 923 6141 9692  
Passcode: 470500

 December 18, 2025 – 12 pm CT  
<https://zoom.us/j/92300513874?pwd=8LSkoepu5uqrEwJSoOYAOneUzM9Buf.1>  
Meeting ID: 923 0051 3874  
Passcode: 177035

 January 8, 2025 – 8 am CT  
<https://zoom.us/j/97944777020?pwd=EJGEpQ2GaXEyU3xhGx2pqKBc2HbgzA.1>  
Meeting ID: 979 4477 7020  
Passcode: 052418

Upon registration you will receive a confirmation email from Evolent for the webinar session you selected.

To take part in the session via telephone, please use the numbers below and the specific meeting ID.

Phone # (US Toll): 646-931-3860

Phone # (US Toll): 309-205-3325

Wellcare approved training/education materials are available after logging into [RadMD.com](https://www.radmd.com).

To get started, go to [RadMD.com](https://www.radmd.com), click the “New User” button, select “Physician’s office that orders procedures” and submit a RadMD “Application for a New Account”. Once the application has been processed and a password link delivered by Evolent via e-mail, you will then be invited to create a new password.

If you have questions, please contact Wellcare Provider Services Department at 1-833-444-9088. If you have questions about the Evolent Musculoskeletal Surgery program, please email [RadMDSupport@evolent.com](mailto:RadMDSupport@evolent.com) or call 1-800-327-0641.

We look forward to offering you this program and hope it will enhance your experience with authorizations.