



# Ambetter of Alabama Musculoskeletal (MSK) Management Program

Provider Training



# Evolut Program Agenda

## Our MSK Program

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

# Evolent

Connecting Our Brands is About Connecting Care



# MSK Prior Authorization Program



- Ambetter of Alabama will begin a prior authorization program through Evolent for the management of MSK Services.



- Program start date: March 1, 2024
- Begin obtaining authorizations from Evolent on March 1, 2024, for services rendered on or after March 1, 2024.



- Inpatient and outpatient hip, knee, shoulder, lumbar and cervical spine surgeries
- Surgery Center
- Hospital



- Exchange Programs



- Evolent will manage services through Ambetter of Alabama's contractual relationships.

# 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

# Hip and Knee 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 extra-articular 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 Surgery

## 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, claviclectomy, diagnostic shoulder arthroscopy)

# Surgery Exclusions

## Exclusions





- Emergency Surgery – admitted via the Emergency Room



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

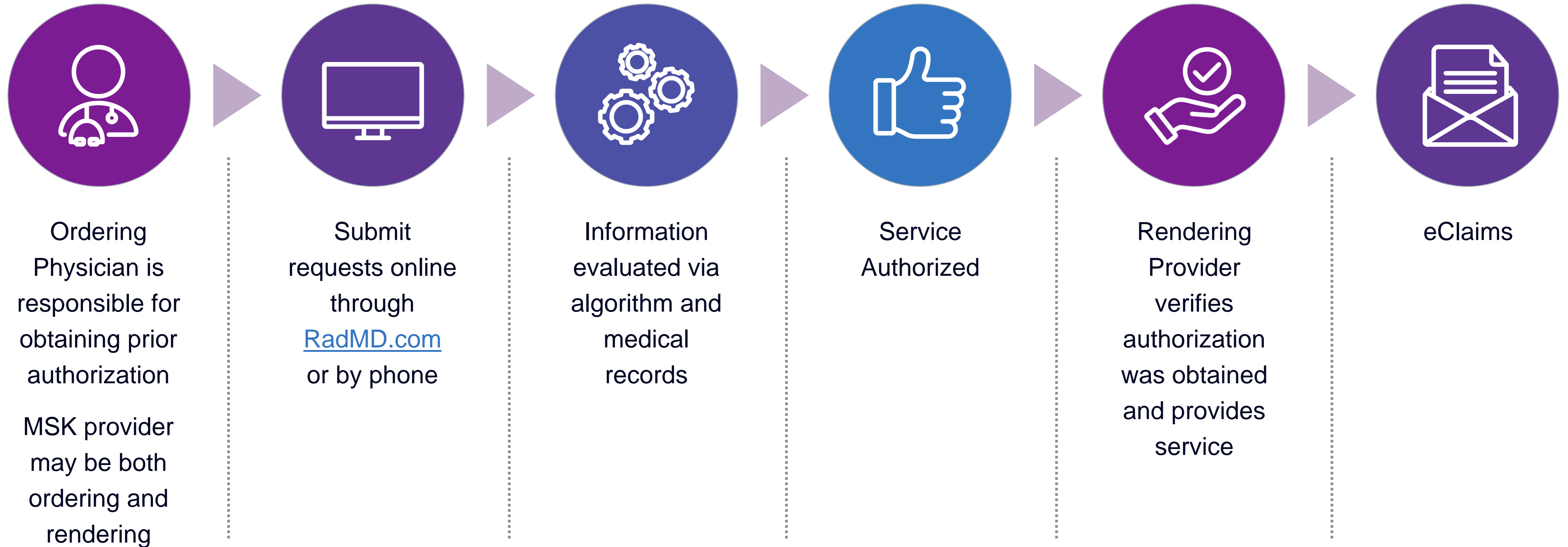


# CPT Codes Requiring Prior Authorization (Spine Surgery Example)

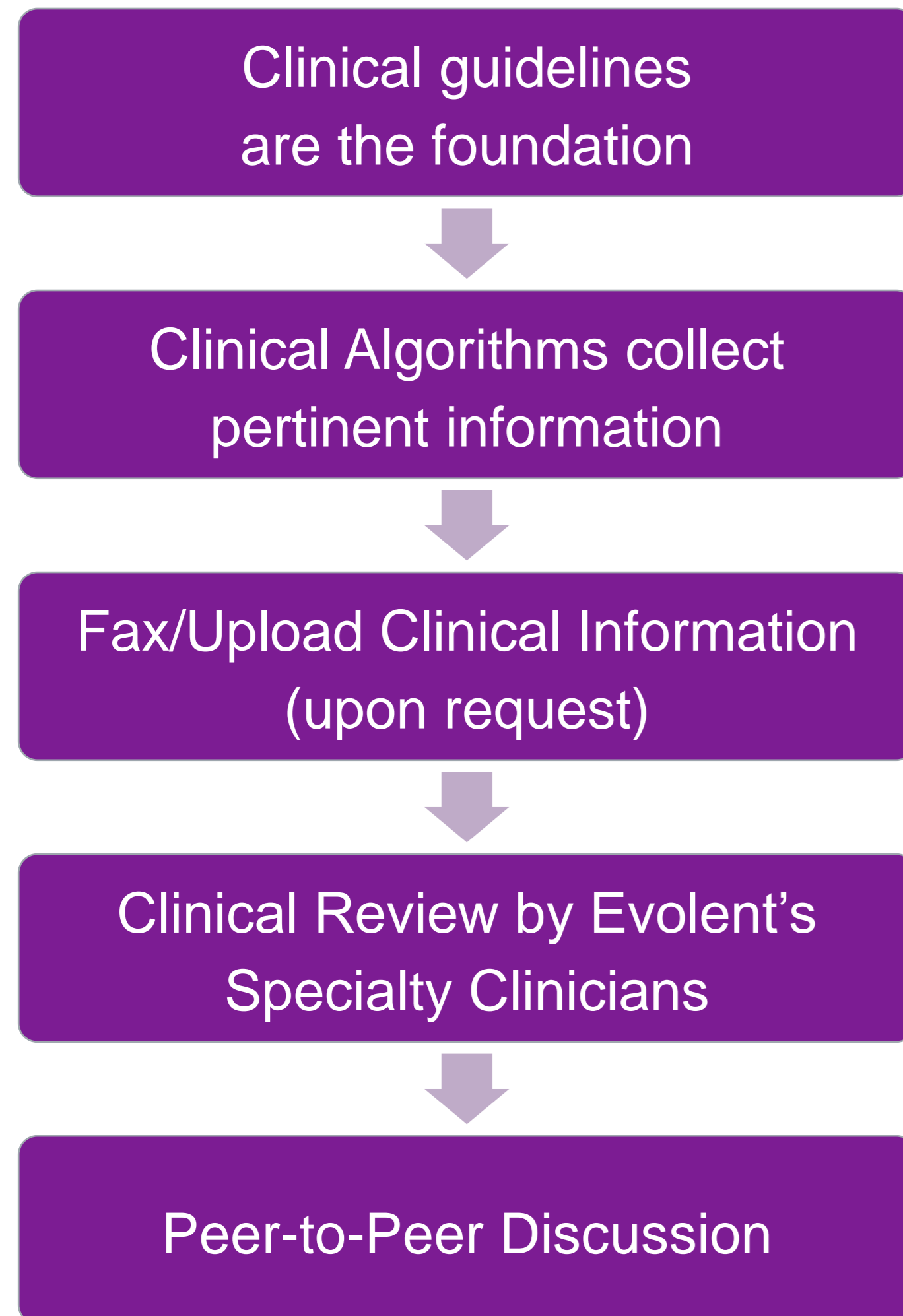
-  Review Claims/Utilization Review Matrix to determine CPT codes managed by Evolent.
-  Includes CPT Codes and their Allowable Billable Groupings.
-  Located on [RadMD.com](https://www.radmd.com)
-  Defer Ambetter of Alabama's Policies for Procedures not on Claims/Utilization Review Matrix.

LUMBAR SPINE SURGERY PROCEDURES				
Procedure Name	Primary CPT Code	Allowable Billed Groupings	Additional Covered Procedures/Code	Ancillary Procedures/Code
Lumbar Microdiscectomy	63030	62380, 63030, +63035		
Lumbar Decompression	63047	63005, 63012, 63017, 63042, +63044, 63047, +63048, 63056, +63057	<b>Microdiscectomy:</b> 62380, 63030, +63035	
Lumbar Fusion – Single Level	22612	22533, 22558, 22612, 22630, 22633, +63052, +63053	<b>Microdiscectomy:</b> 62380, 63030, +63035 <b>Decompression:</b> 63005, 63012, 63017, 63042, +63044, 63047, +63048, 63056, +63057	<b>Instrumentation:</b> +22840, +22841, +22842, +22845, +22853 <b>Bone Grafts:</b> +20930, +20931, +20936, +20937, +20938 <b>Bone Marrow Aspiration:</b> 20939

# Prior Authorization Process Overview



# Evolent'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 Ambetter of Alabama and Evolent Medical Officers and clinical experts. **Clinical Guidelines are available on [RadMD.com](https://www.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.
- Evolent 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 Surgery

## Special Information

- Most surgeries require only one authorization request. Evolent 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.
- The ordering physician must obtain prior authorization with Evolent prior to performing the surgery/procedure.
- Date of service is required.
- Inpatient admissions continue to be subject to concurrent review by Ambetter of Alabama.
- 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.

# 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)

# Evolent 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.

Date: March

ORDERING PHYSICIAN:	Dr. Clifford		
FAX NUMBER:		TRACKING NUMBER:	
RE:	Authorization Request	MEMBER ID:	
PATIENT NAME:	Cindy I		
HEALTH PLAN:			

We have received your request for Lumbar Decompression. We are unable to approve based on the information provided to date, please respond to this fax as soon as possible.

**Missing Clinical: Specific dates and duration of conservative treatment for 6 consecutive weeks in the last 6 months. Must include at least two of the following: physical therapy, physician-directed home exercise plan, epidural steroid injections, and/or medications.**

*Additional information is still needed.*

We have received your request for **Lumbar Decompression** along with additional records. However, the information provided still does not support the medical necessity of these services to make a determination on this case. Please see the documentation needed below which may allow us to make a positive determination. Only sending daily notes may delay authorization.

**Missing Clinical: Specific dates and duration of conservative treatment for 6 consecutive weeks in the last 6 months. Must include at least two of the following: physical therapy, physician-directed home exercise plan, epidural steroid injections, and/or medications.**

You may submit records for this episode of care as requested by uploading them on [www.radmd.com](http://www.radmd.com). Please do not resend the information previously submitted.

**The ordering physician is responsible for obtaining prior authorizations and for submitting the clinical records if requested. Please respond as soon as possible with the clinical information identified above.**

Receipt of written records is required in order to process your request. Once this information has been received, the case will be reviewed by a clinician, and you will be notified of the determination. The ordering provider may call to have a peer to peer discussion.

**Submitting a prior authorization request on RadMD is fast and efficient!**

Our provider portal, RadMD, is the easiest way to request authorizations, upload documents, access clinical guidelines and much more! To get started, visit [www.RadMD.com](http://www.RadMD.com), select **New User** and submit an **Application for New Account**.

# Submitting Additional Clinical Information

- Records may be submitted:
  - Upload to [RadMD.com](https://www.radmd.com)
  - Fax using Evolent coversheet

- Location of Fax Coversheets:
  - Can be printed from [RadMD.com](https://www.radmd.com)
  - Call 1-800-278-0103

- Use the case specific fax coversheet when faxing clinical information to Evolent

## Exam Request Verification: Detail

Upload Clinical Document

Print Fax Cover Sheet

Request Additional Visits

### Cases in this Request

#### Member

**Name:** Evo Lent  
**Gender:** Female  
**Date of Birth:** 5/24/1971  
**Member ID:** AB123456  
**Health Plan:** ABC Health Plan  
HMO  
**Spoken Language:** ENGLISH  
**Written Language:** ENGLISH

#### Provider

**Name:** Memorial Hospital  
**Address:** 123 Main St, New City, ST  
12345  
**Phone:** 123-456-7890  
**Tax ID:** 987654321  
**UPIN:**  
**Specialty:**

# Clinical Specialty Team: Focused on MSK



## MSK Surgery Review

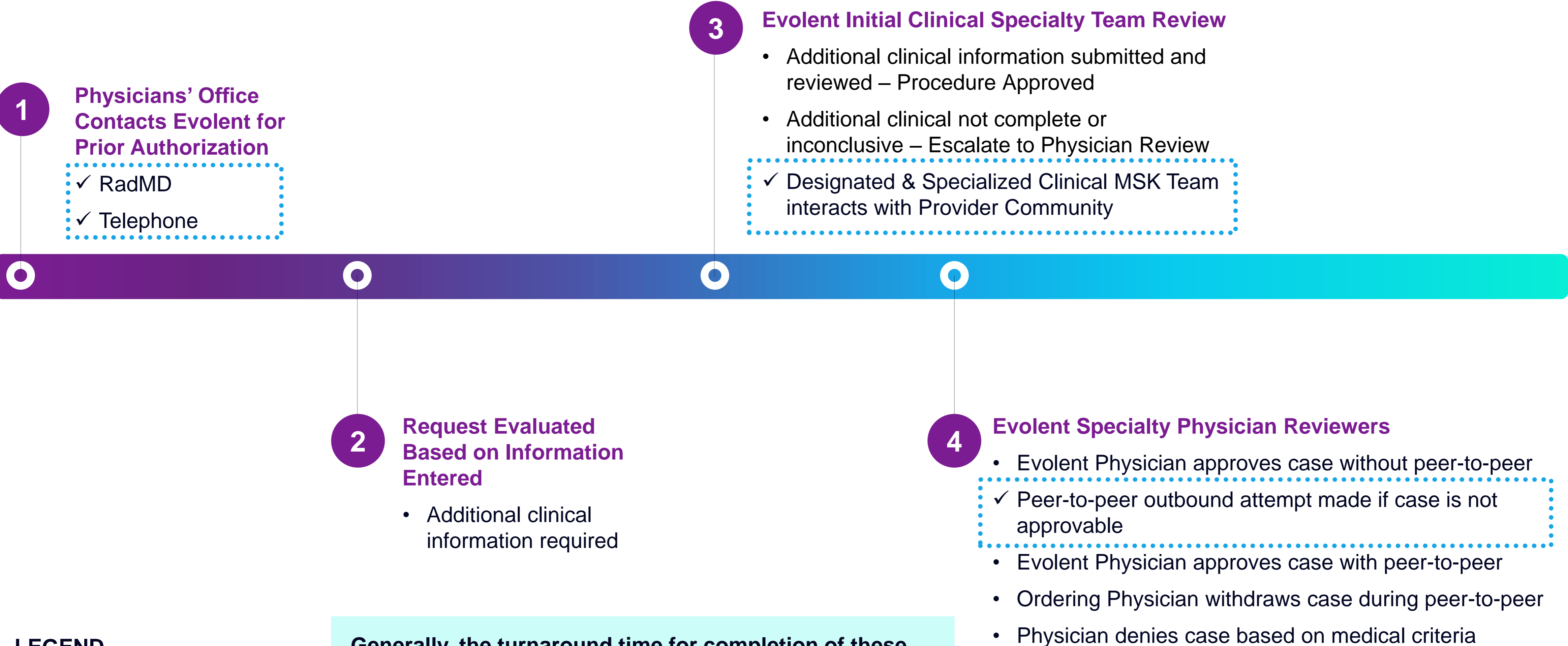
Initial clinical review performed by specialty trained surgery nurses

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



**LEGEND**

✓ Key Evolent differentiator

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 Evolent immediately.
- The Evolent website [RadMD.com](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 Evolent call center at 1-800-278-0103.
- Turnaround time is within 1 business day not to exceed 48 calendar hours.

# Authorization Validity Period

- Surgery
  - Inpatient — 90 calendar days from date of request
  - Outpatient — SDC/Ambulatory –  
90 calendar days from date of request
- 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/request changes, please contact Evolent to update.

# Denial Notification

- Notifications include an explanation of services denied and the clinical rationale.
- A peer-to-peer discussion can be initiated once the adverse determination has been made.
- Reconsideration may be available with new or additional information.
- Timeframe for reconsideration must occur within 5 business days from the date of denial and prior to submitting a formal appeal.
- In the event of a denial, providers are asked to follow the instructions provided in their denial letter.

# Claims and Appeals

## Claims Process:

- Providers should continue to submit their claims to Ambetter of Alabama.
- Providers are strongly encouraged to use EDI claims submission.

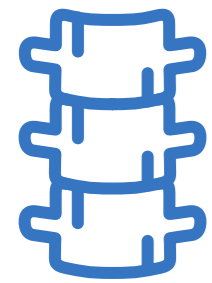
## Appeals Process:

- In the event of a prior authorization or claims payment denial, providers may appeal the decision through Ambetter of Alabama.
- Providers should follow the instructions on their non-authorization letter or Explanation of Payment (EOP) notification.

# 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, Evolent will monitor provider use of CPT codes 22800-22819.

# MSK Surgery Points: Hip, Knee, or Shoulder Surgery

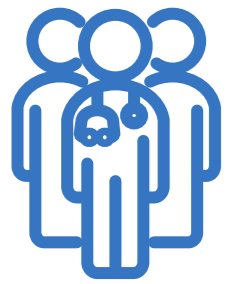


Bilateral hip, knee, or shoulder surgeries require authorization for both the left and right side. These requests can be entered at the same time and will be reviewed concurrently. ACDF and posterior cervical fusion require authorization for each procedure. These requests can be entered at the same time 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 Ambetter of Alabama.



The ordering physician must obtain prior authorization with Evolent prior to performing the surgery/procedure.

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.



Authorizations are valid for 90 days from the date of request. Evolent must be notified of any changes to the date of service.



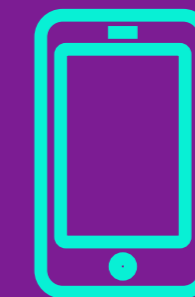
# Provider Tools

- 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



RadMD.com

Available 24/7



1-800-278-0103

Available Monday - Friday

7:00 AM – 7:00 PM CST

# Evolent Website

[RadMD.com](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.
  - MSK providers are typically both the ordering and the rendering provider.

## Online Tools Available on RadMD

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

The screenshot shows two main sections of the RadMD website interface. The top section, titled "RadMD Sign In", has a green background and contains the text "For URGENT/EXPEDITED authorization requests, please contact the Evolent call center." Below this text are two buttons: "Sign In" (orange) and "New User" (grey). The bottom section, titled "Track an Authorization", has a light beige background and contains the text "Authorization Tracking Number" above a white input field. To the right of the input field is an orange "Go" button.

# RadMD New User Application Process - Ordering

## STEPS

1. Click the **“New User”** button on the right side of the home page.  
*NOTE: On subsequent visits to RadMD, click the “Sign In” button to proceed.*
2. Under the Appropriate Description dropdown select **“Physician’s office that orders procedures”**.
3. Complete the application and click **“Submit”**.
4. Open email from Evolent webmaster with new user password instructions.

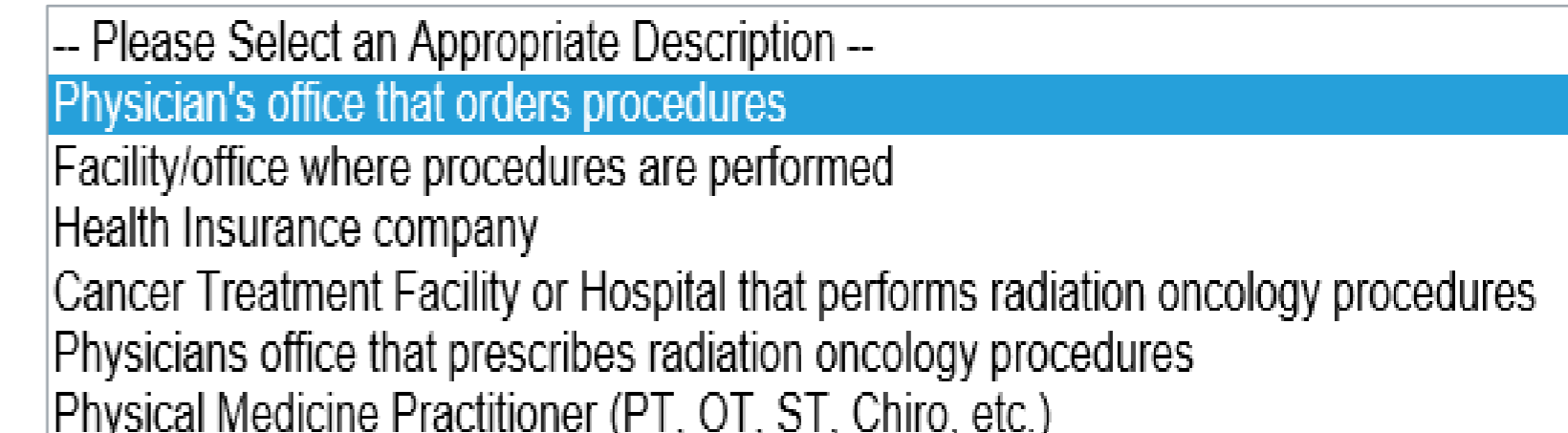
## IMPORTANT

- Users are required to have their own separate username and password due to HIPAA regulations.
- 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.

1



2



3

# RadMD New User Application Process - Rendering

## STEPS

1. Click the **“New User”** button on the right side of the home page.  
*NOTE: On subsequent visits to RadMD, click the “Sign In” button to proceed.*
2. Under the Appropriate Description dropdown select **“Facility/office where procedures are performed”**.
3. Complete the application and click **“Submit”**.
4. Open email from Evolent webmaster with new user password instructions.

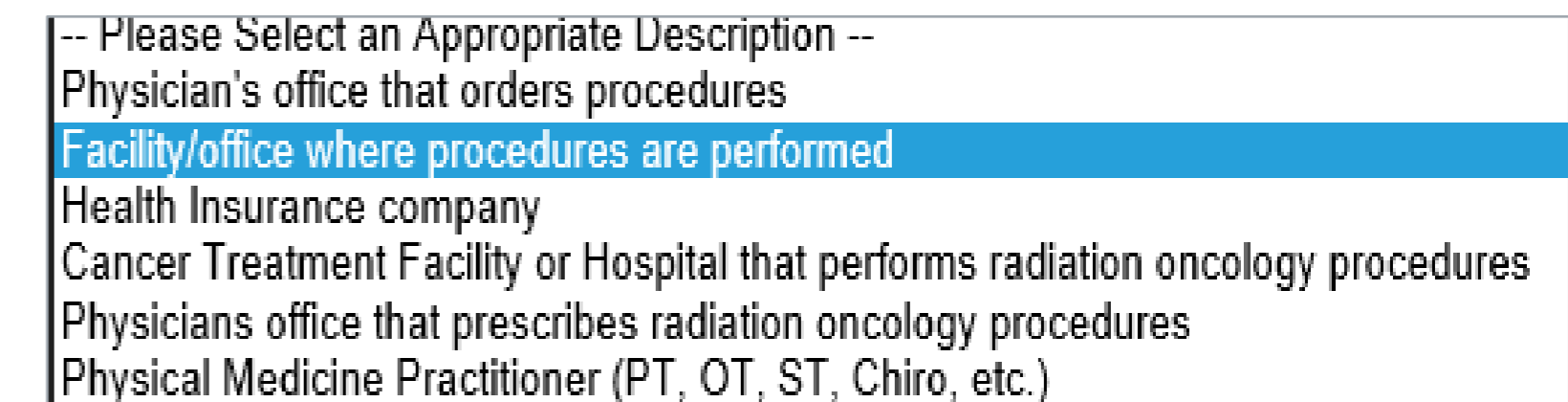
### IMPORTANT

- 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.
- 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.

1



2



3

Application for a New Account

Please fill out this form only for yourself. Shared accounts are not allowed.

In order for your account to be activated, you must be able to receive emails from RadMDSupport@magellanhealth.com. Please check with your email administrator to ensure that emails from RadMDSupport@magellanhealth.com can be received.

Which of the following best describes your company?  
Facility/office/lab where procedures are performed [What about read-only radiology offices?](#)

New Account User Information		Your Supervisor	
Choose a Username:		Unless you are the owner or CEO of your company, the user's name/email must be different than the supervisor's name/email.	
First Name:	Last Name:	First Name:	Last Name:
Phone:	Fax:	Phone:	Email:
Email:	Confirm Email:		
Company Name:	Job Title:	Facility Tax ID #:	<input type="button" value="Add"/>
Address Line 1:	Address Line 2:	Your Tax IDs:	[none]
City:	State:		
Zip:			

# Shared Access

Evolent offers a Shared Access feature on our [RadMD.com](https://www.radmd.com) website. Shared Access allows ordering providers to view authorization requests initiated by other RadMD users within their practice.

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 [RadMD.com](https://www.radmd.com), allowing them to communicate with members and facilitate treatment.

## Request

**Exam or specialty procedure**

(including Cardiac, Ultrasound, Sleep Assessment)

**Physical Medicine**

[Initiate a Subsequent Request](#)

**Radiation Treatment Plan**

**Pain Management**

or Minimally Invasive Procedure

**Spine Surgery or Orthopedic Surgery**

**Genetic Testing**

## Resources and Tools

Shared Access

1 share offer requires your attention

Clinical Guidelines

Request access to Tax ID

## News and Updates

**Hot Topic:**

Login As Username:

## Request Status

[Search for Request](#)

[View All My Requests](#)

[View Customer Service Calls](#)

Tracking Number:

[Forgot Tracking Number?](#)

# When to Contact Evolent

Initiating or checking the status of an authorization request

- Website: [RadMD.com](https://www.RadMD.com)
- 1-800-278-0103

Initiating a Peer-to-Peer Consultation

- 1-800-278-0103

Provider Service Line

- [RadMDSupport@Evolent.com](mailto:RadMDSupport@Evolent.com)
- Call 1-800-327-0641

Provider Education requests or questions specific to Evolent

Lori Fink  
*Provider Relations Manager*  
1-410-953-2621 • [lfink@evolent.com](mailto:lfink@evolent.com)

# RadMD Demonstration



# THANK YOU!

EVOLENT DOES NOT ALLOW ANY THIRD PARTIES TO USE EVOLENT OR EVOLENT CLIENT DATA FOR ANY PURPOSE OTHER THAN PROVIDING SERVICES ON BEHALF OF EVOLENT OR EVOLENT CLIENTS.