



# Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island Musculoskeletal (MSK) Surgery Program

Provider Training

# Evolent Program Agenda

## Our MSK Surgery Program

 Program Overview

 Authorization Process

- Other Program Components

 Provider Tools and Contact Information

 RadMD Demo

 Questions and Answers

# NIA and New Century Health Are Now Evolent

Connecting Our Brands is About Connecting Care



# MSK Prior Authorization Program



## THE PROGRAM

Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island will begin a prior authorization program through Evolent (formerly NIA) for the management of musculoskeletal (MSK) surgery services.



## IMPORTANT DATES

### Program start date:

- January 1, 2026



## PROCEDURES & SETTINGS INCLUDED

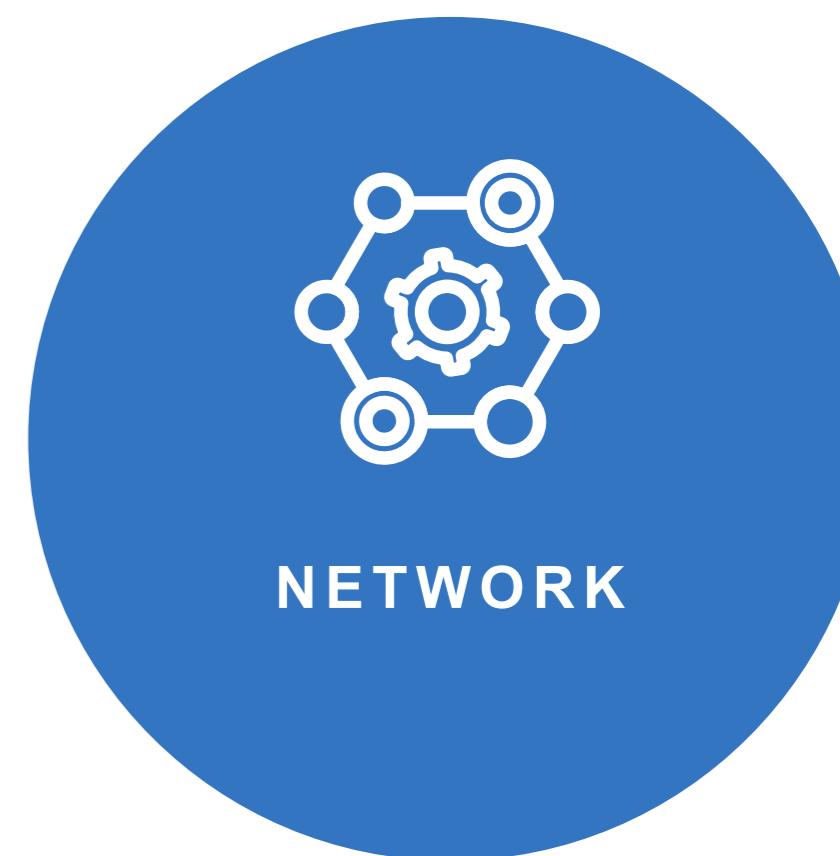
**Procedures:** Hip, knee, shoulder, lumbar and cervical spine surgeries

19 – Outpatient off-campus  
21 – Inpatient hospital (Elective professional services only)  
22 – Outpatient on-campus  
24 – Ambulatory surgery center



## MEMBERSHIP INCLUDED

- Medicaid
- Medicare (FIDE-SNP and CO D-SNP)



## NETWORK

- Evolent will manage services through Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island's contractual relationships.

# Lumbar and Cervical Spine Surgery

Evolent manages the following non-emergent lumbar and cervical spine surgeries performed in inpatient and outpatient settings:

- 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

Evolent manages the following non-emergent hip and knee surgeries performed in inpatient and outpatient settings:

## Hip Surgeries

- 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

- 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)

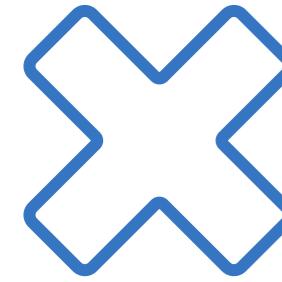
# Shoulder Surgery

Evolent manages the following non-emergent shoulder surgeries performed in inpatient and outpatient settings:

- 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, claviclelectomy, diagnostic shoulder arthroscopy)

# MSK Surgery Program Exclusions

Evolent does not manage the following:



- Emergency Surgeries – following Emergency Room admission
- Surgeries addressing the following: 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.
- Reconstructive spinal deformity surgery (22800-22819)

# CPT Codes Requiring Prior Authorization (Spine Surgery Example)

 Review Utilization Review Matrix to determine CPT codes managed by Evolent.

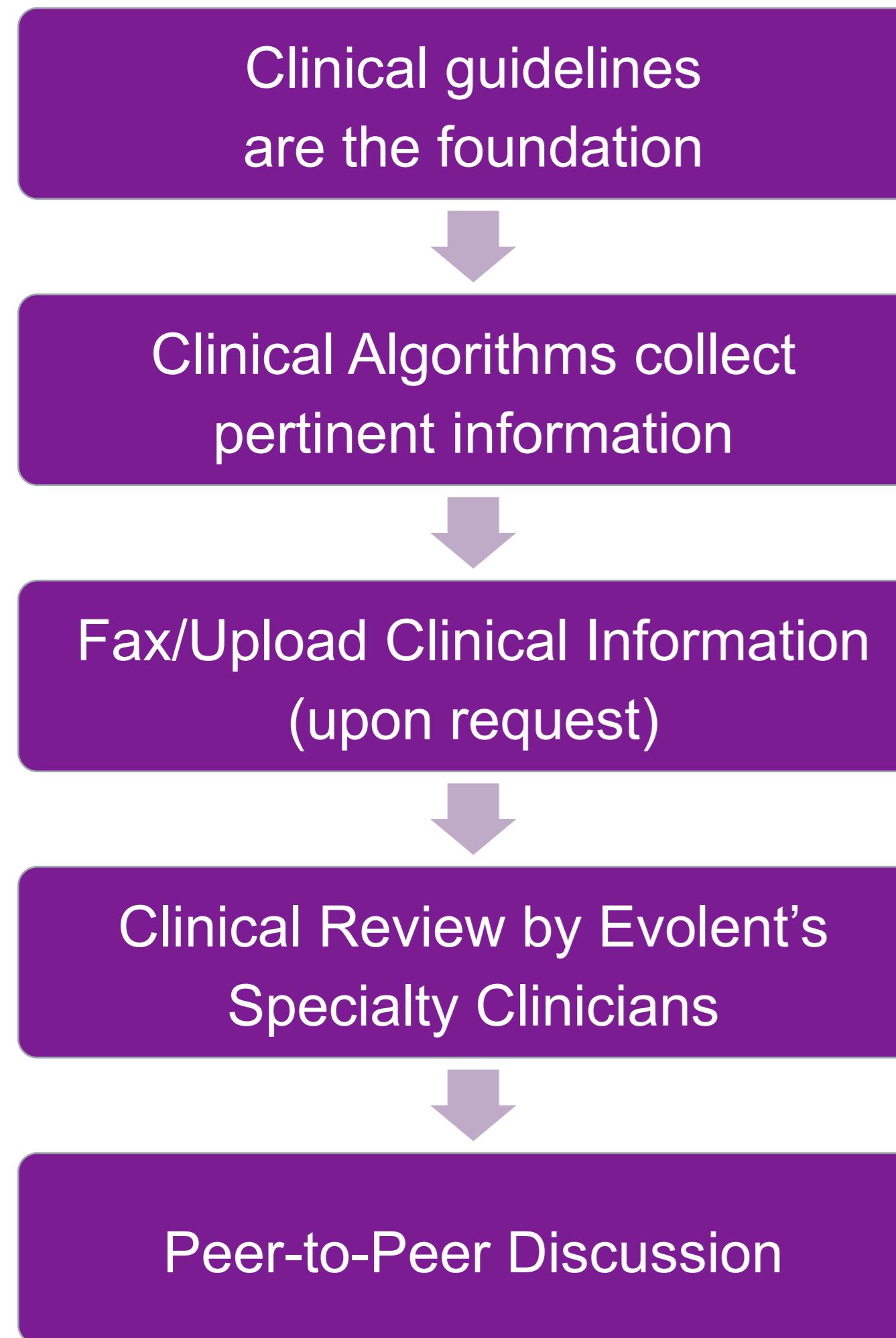
 Includes CPT Codes and their Allowable Billable Groupings.

 Located on [RadMD.com](https://www.RadMD.com)

 Defer to Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island's Policies for Procedures not on Evolent's 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

# Evolent's Clinical Foundation & Review



- **Clinical guidelines** are developed by practicing specialty physicians, through literature reviews and evidenced-based research. Guidelines are reviewed and mutually approved by Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island and Evolent Medical Officers and clinical experts. **Clinical Guidelines are available on [RadMD.com](https://www.RadMD.com)**
- Clinical 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.**

# Clinical Specialty Team: Focused on MSK



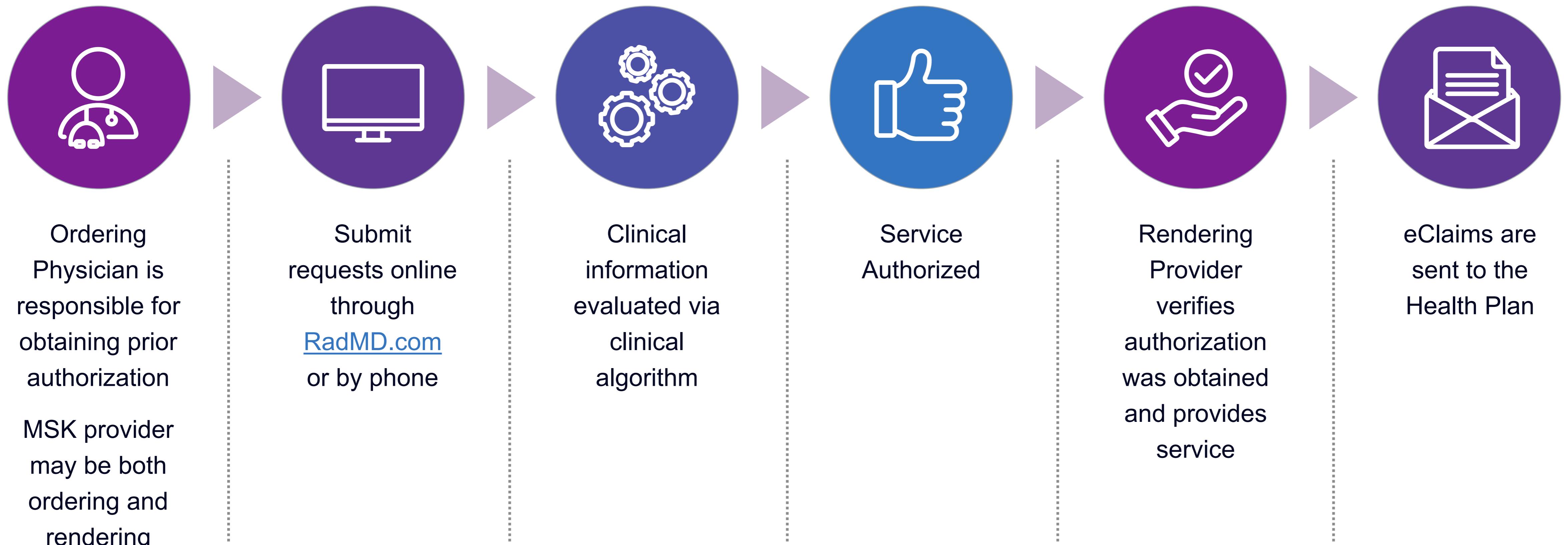
## MSK Surgery Review

Initial clinical review performed by specialty trained surgery nurses

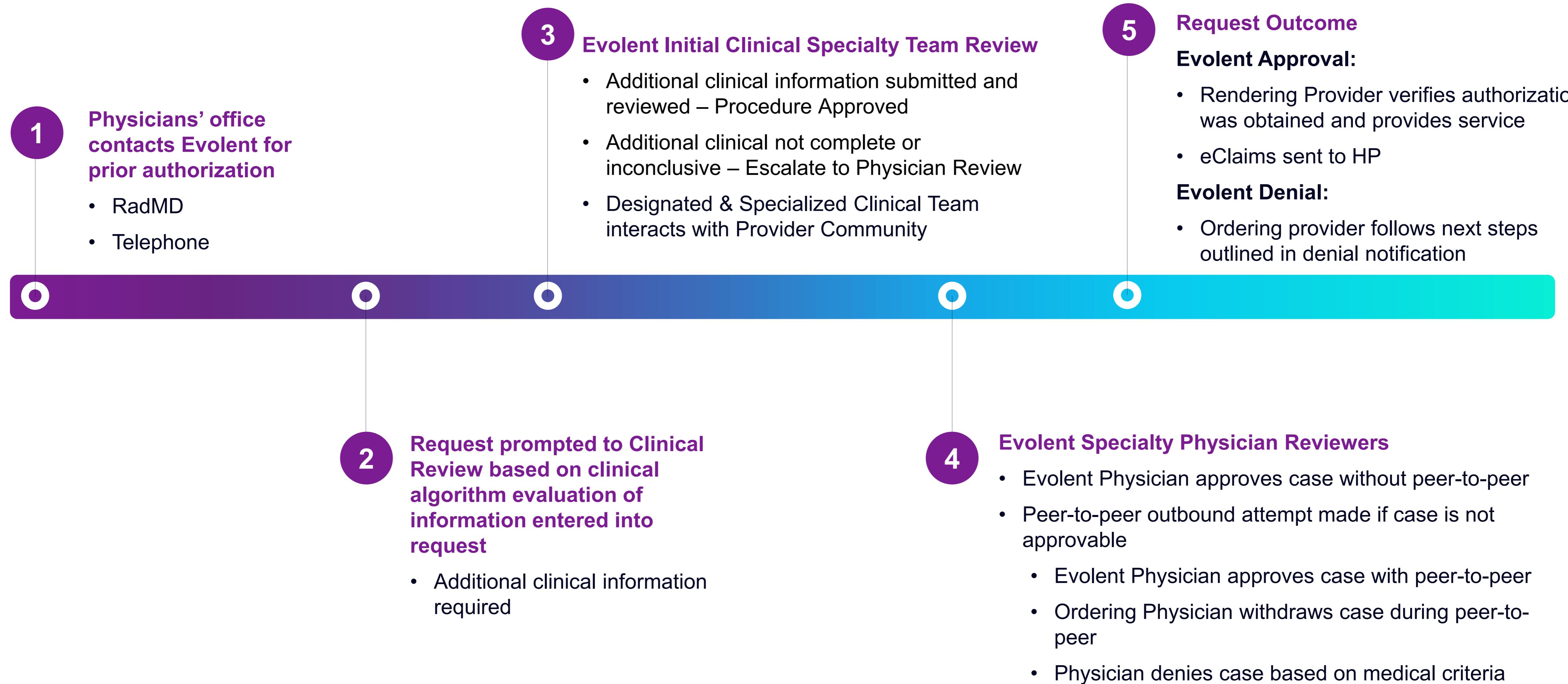
Surgery concierge team will contact provider for additional clinical information, if needed.

Orthopedic surgeons or neurosurgeons conduct clinical reviews and peer-to-peer discussions on surgery requests

# Prior Authorization Real-Time Approval Path



# Prior Authorization - Clinical Review



# MSK Surgery Authorization Highlights

- 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 Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island.
- For scheduled Musculoskeletal surgeries, Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island requires inpatient level of care in the hospital to be authorized through the health plan separately and only initiated after the service has met Evolent's medical necessity criteria and issued an approval. If the member requires inpatient level of care for the procedure, please contact the health plan for associated inpatient level of care authorizations of Evolent approved procedures.

# Surgery Clinical Checklist Reminders

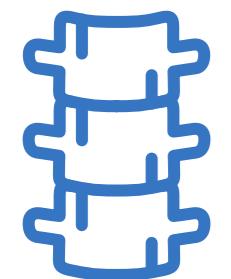
## Surgery Documentation

-  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)

# 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.

# 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.

# 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 Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island.



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 60 calendar days from the date of service. Evolent must be notified of any changes to the date of service.

# 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](#)
- Fax using Evolent coversheet



Location of Fax Coversheets:

- Can be printed from [RadMD.com](#)
- Call: 1-877-469-7949



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	Provider
<b>Name:</b> Evo Lent	<b>Name:</b> Memorial Hospital
<b>Gender:</b> Female	<b>Address:</b> 123 Main St, New City, ST 12345
<b>Date of Birth:</b> 5/24/1971	<b>Phone:</b> 123-456-7890
<b>Member ID:</b> AB123456	<b>Tax ID:</b> 987654321
<b>Health Plan:</b> ABC Health Plan HMO	<b>UPIN:</b>
<b>Spoken Language:</b> ENGLISH	<b>Specialty:</b>
<b>Written Language:</b> ENGLISH	

# 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://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 1-877-469-7949.
- Turnaround time is not to exceed 72 calendar hours.

# Authorization Validity Period

- Surgery
  - Inpatient: 60 days from date of service
  - Outpatient: 60 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 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 (Medicaid).
- Medicaid re-reviews are available within 5 business days from the date of initial denial date and prior to submitting a formal appeal through the health plan.
- Medicare re-opens are only allowed if the request complies with the CMS definition of a re-open. Providers will continue to have the option to submit an appeal utilizing the health plan's process.
- In the event of a denial, providers are asked to follow the instructions provided in their denial letter.

# Claims and Appeals

## Claims Process:

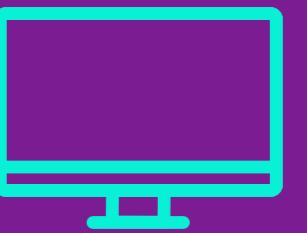
- Providers should continue to submit their claims to Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island.
- Providers are strongly encouraged to use EDI claims submission.

## Appeals Process:

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

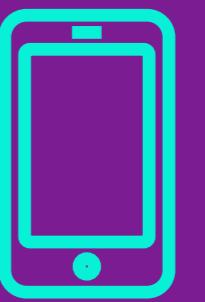
# Provider Tools

- 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



[RadMD.com](https://www.RadMD.com)

Available 24/7



1-877-469-7949

Available Monday - Friday  
8:00 AM – 8:00 PM EST

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- Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System for authorization tracking

# Evolent Website

## 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
- RadMD Quick Start Guide
- Scope of Service
- Claims/Utilization Matrices



# 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.

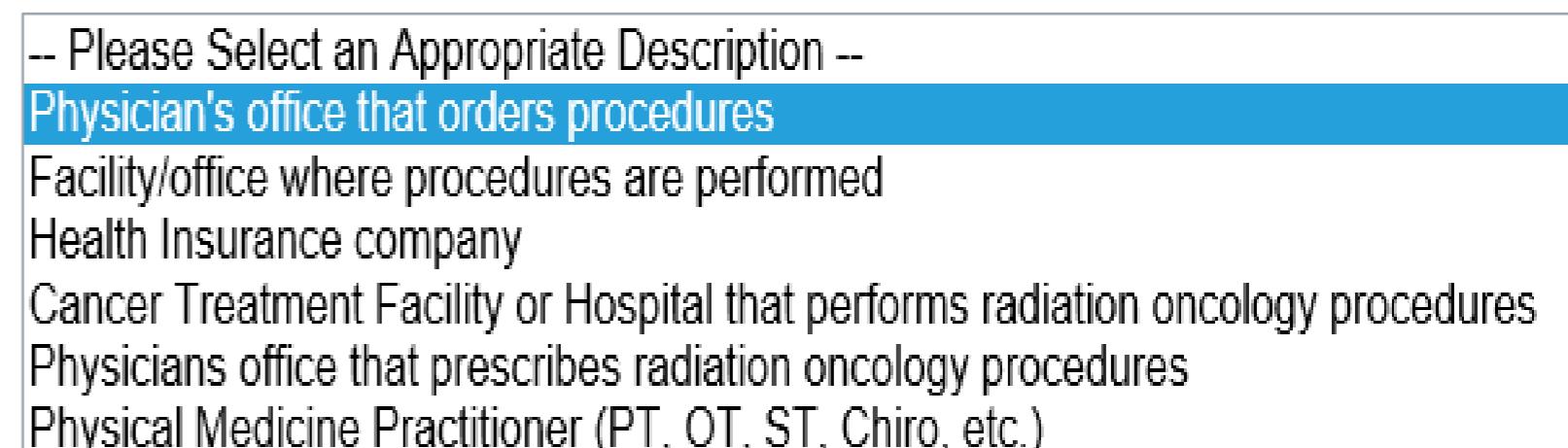
### IMPORTANT

- 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.

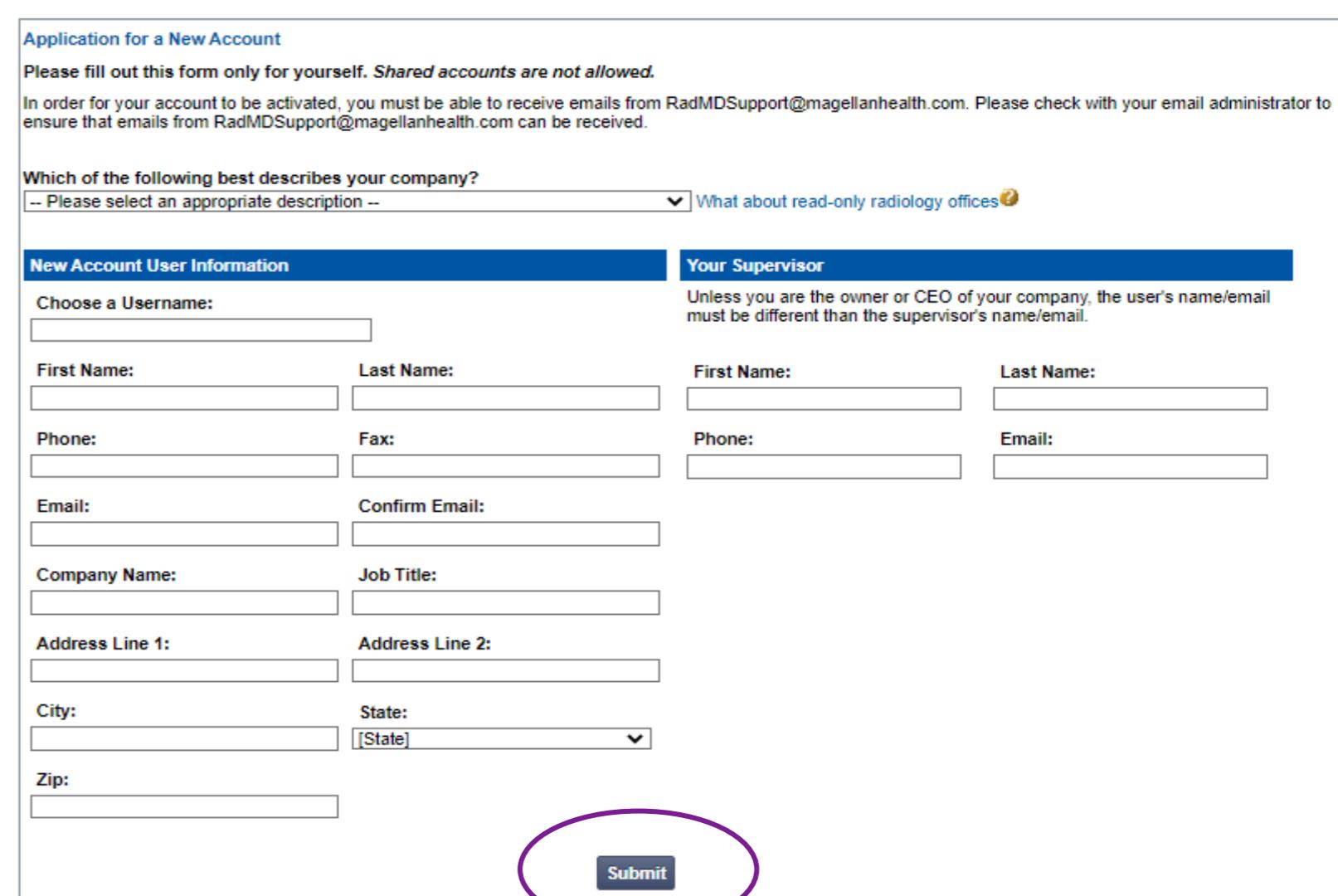
1



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.

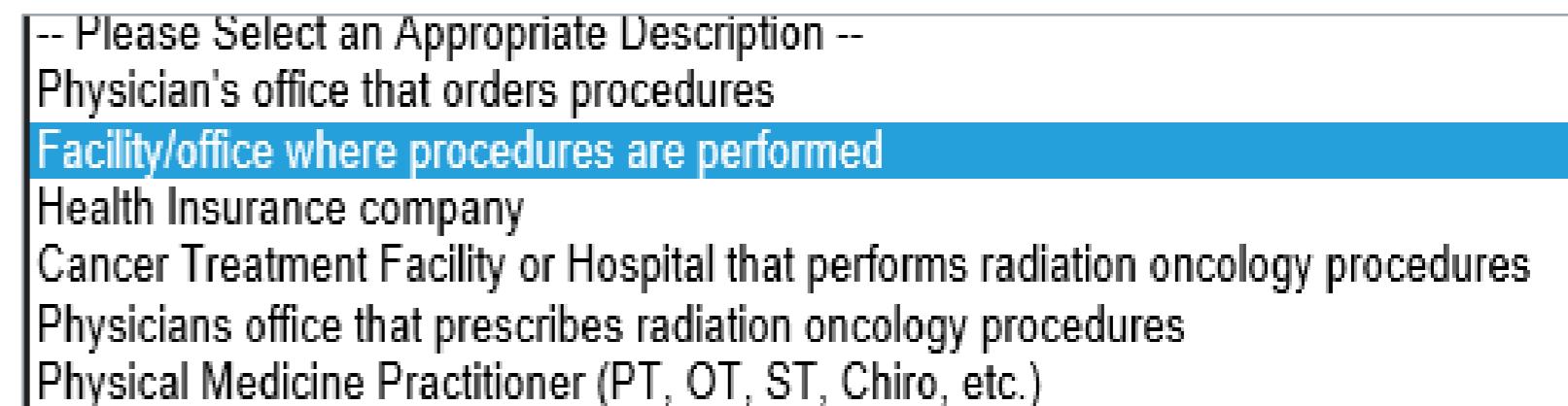
### IMPORTANT

- 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.

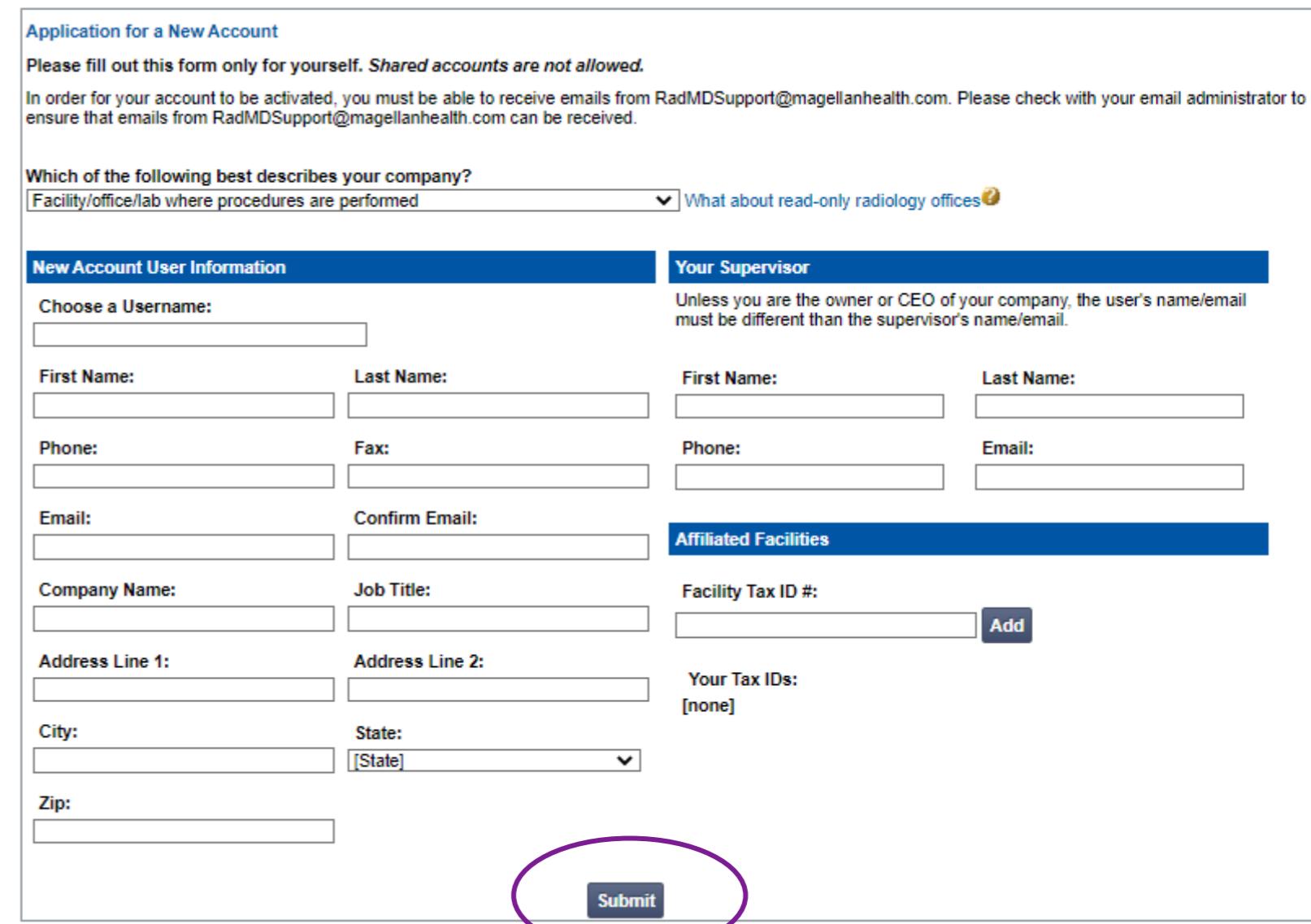
1



2



3



# Shared Access

Evolent offers a Shared Access feature on our [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](#), 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:  [Login](#)

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## Request Status

[Search for Request](#)  
[View All My Requests](#)  
[View Customer Service Calls](#)

Tracking Number:  [Search](#)  
[Forgot Tracking Number?](#)

# When to Contact Evolent

**Initiating or checking  
the status of an authorization  
request**

- Website: [RadMD.com](http://RadMD.com)
- 1.877.469.7949

**Initiating a Peer-to-Peer  
Consultation**

- 1.877.469.7949

**Provider Service Line**

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

**Provider Education requests  
or questions specific to  
Evolent**

Mara Grimm  
*Provider Engagement Manager*  
1-804-548-0584 • [mara.grimmm@evolent.com](mailto:mara.grimmm@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.

We welcome  
your feedback to  
help us improve.

Neighborhood Health Plan of  
Rhode Island - Musculoskeletal -  
Training Survey



<https://forms.office.com/r/q0d0B4XyQj>