



Cardiac Imaging Frequently Asked Questions

Cardiac Studies for Care1st Health Plan Arizona

Why do some cardiac-related studies now require prior authorization?

Prior authorization is required to minimize radiation exposure and promote the most appropriate test for the continuum of care.

When did the program begin?

The cardiac prior authorization program began on March 1, 2021.

How does the program work?

The cardiac imaging management program assesses imaging technologies used to diagnose and monitor members with cardiac-related conditions in non-emergent cases. The program takes a comprehensive approach to determine if a recommended test is the proper next step in diagnosing cardiac-related conditions or if another test is more appropriate.

What cardiac-related imaging procedures are included in the Care1st Health Plan Arizona cardiac program?

Prior authorization through Evolent will be required for the following cardiac modalities:

- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)/Magnetic Resonance Angiography (MRA)
- Computed Tomography (CT)/Computed Tomography Angiography (CTA)
- Positron Emission Tomography (PET)
- CCTA
- Myocardial Perfusion Imaging (MPI)
- MUGA Scan
- Stress Echocardiography
- Echocardiography (transthoracic and transesophageal echocardiography)

What additional services are provided?

- Evidence-based algorithms to support the best diagnostic options for each member.
- Consultations with board-certified internists with specialized cardiac training and board-certified cardiologists related to elective cardiac diagnostic imaging when peer-to-peer review is required.

What do ordering providers need to do?

Ordering providers need to get prior authorization for non-emergent, outpatient: Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)/Magnetic Resonance Angiography (MRA)

- Computed Tomography (CT)/Computed Tomography Angiography (CTA)
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Who will administer clinical oversight of the cardiac program?

Board-certified cardiologists developed evidence-based clinical guidelines and algorithms that determine the best available diagnostic pathway. These physicians consult with referring physicians to apply these guidelines and algorithms to a member's specific symptoms and medical history. By determining the most appropriate clinical imaging protocol for each member, we can reduce duplicative testing, minimize member radiation exposure, shorten diagnosis time, and improve the overall health care experience.

What happens if I need to have an inpatient or emergent cardiac procedure performed?

Care1st Health Plan Arizona will continue to manage inpatient and emergency cardiac procedures as is done today.

KEY PROVISIONS

- Emergency room and inpatient imaging procedures do not require prior authorization.