



1/8/2024

Dear Provider,

National Imaging Associates, Inc. (NIA)\* provides utilization management services for non-emergent, Medical Specialty Solutions for PA Health & Wellness.

In the interest of streamlining authorization processes and improving member outcomes, PA Health & Wellness will be expanding their prior authorization program to include non-emergent MSK procedures including inpatient and outpatient hip, knee, shoulder, lumbar and cervical spine surgeries for PA Health & Wellness members.

Under the terms of the agreement between the Health Plan and NIA, the Health Plan will oversee the MSK program and continue to be responsible for claims adjudication and medical policies. NIA will manage non-emergent inpatient and outpatient MSK surgeries through PA Health & Wellness existing contractual relationships.

Planned for a March 1, 2024, implementation, this correspondence serves as notice under your Participating Health Plan Provider Agreement of changes to the program.

Providers may begin contacting NIA on March 1, 2024, to seek prior authorization for procedures below scheduled on or after March 1, 2024.

The following outlines the specific procedures requiring prior authorization.

MSK Surgeries: Prior authorization will be required for the following non-emergent inpatient and outpatient hip, knee, shoulder, lumbar and cervical 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

*\* Effective 1/20/2023, National Imaging Associates, Inc. is now a subsidiary of Evolent Health. Evolent Health and its affiliates and subsidiaries collectively referred to as "Evolent."*

- 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
- Lumbar Artificial Disc Replacement
- 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)

#### KEY PROVISIONS:

- It is the responsibility of the ordering physician to obtain prior authorization for all MSK surgeries outlined above.
- NIA does not manage prior authorization for emergency MSK surgery cases that are admitted through the emergency room or for MSK surgery procedures outside of those procedures listed above.
- Facility admissions do not require a separate prior authorization. However, the facility should ensure that an NIA prior authorization has been obtained prior to scheduling the surgery/procedure.

Services other than the MSK surgeries outlined above will continue to follow the PA Health & Wellness.

We appreciate your support and look forward to your assistance in assuring that the PA Health & Wellness members receive MSK services delivered in a quality, clinically appropriate fashion.

We will provide additional information as we get closer to the implementation date. Should you have questions, please contact PA Health & Wellness Provider Services Departments at:  
 Community HealthChoices PA Health & Wellness: 1-844-626-6813 (TTY:711)  
 Wellcare by Allwell: HMO/PPO: 1-800-977-7522 TTY:711 HMO/ PPO D-SNP: 1-844-796-6811 TTY:711  
 Ambetter from PA Health & Wellness: 1-833-510-4727 (TTY:711).

Sincerely,  
 PA Health & Wellness