

Home State Health, Ambetter from Home State Health, Wellcare By Allwell, and Wellcare Musculoskeletal Care Management (MSK) Program Quick Reference Guide for Physicians/Surgeons

March 1, 2024

Home State Health, Ambetter from Home State Health, Wellcare By Allwell, and Wellcare are committed to continuous improvement of quality services for our members. With that in mind, Home State Health, Ambetter from Home State Health, Wellcare By Allwell, and Wellcare have entered into an expanded partnership with National Imaging Associates, Inc. (NIA)¹, to implement a Musculoskeletal Care Management (MSK) Program. This program includes prior authorization for non-emergent MSK procedures: inpatient and outpatient hip, knee, shoulder, lumbar and cervical spine surgeries. This decision is consistent with industry-wide efforts to ensure clinically appropriate quality of care and to manage the increasing utilization of these services.

The following types of services are included in the MSK program for all Home State Health, Ambetter from Home State Health, Wellcare By Allwell, and Wellcare members. Providers may begin contacting NIA on March 1, 2024, to obtain prior authorization for procedures scheduled on or after March 1, 2024.

- Inpatient and outpatient hip surgeries
- Inpatient and outpatient knee surgeries
- Inpatient and outpatient shoulder surgeries
- Inpatient and outpatient lumbar and cervical spine surgeries

Prior Authorization Implementation

As a provider of MSK services that require prior authorization, it is essential that you develop a process to ensure that the appropriate authorization number(s) has been obtained.

It is the responsibility of the ordering physician/surgeon and rendering facility to ensure that prior authorization was obtained, when necessary. Payment will be denied for procedures performed without a prior authorization, including the MSK surgery hospital admission, and the member cannot be balance-billed for such procedures.

Procedures Requiring Prior Authorization*

Outpatient and Inpatient 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)

*A separate prior authorization number is required for each procedure ordered.

¹Effective 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.”

Outpatient and Inpatient 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)

****Surgeon must request surgery authorization for each joint, even if bilateral joint surgery is to be performed on the same date.**

Outpatient and Inpatient Shoulder Surgeries:**

- Revision Shoulder Arthroplasty
- Total/Reverse 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)

Outpatient and Inpatient Spine Surgeries:

- 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)
- Sacroiliac Joint Fusion

NIA will manage the MSK program through existing contractual relationships with Home State Health, Ambetter from Home State Health and Wellcare By Allwell, and Wellcare. If an urgent/emergent clinical situation exists outside of a hospital emergency room, please contact NIA immediately with the appropriate clinical information for an expedited review. The number to call to initiate a prior authorization request is:

1-800-424-4794 – Ambetter
1-800-308- 2615 - Medicaid
1-800-424-4825 – Wellcare by Allwell
1-800-424-5388 - Wellcare

Please refer to NIA's website www.RadMD.com to obtain the NIA Billable CPT® Codes Claim Resolution/Utilization Review Matrix for all of the CPT-4 codes that NIA authorizes on behalf of Home State Health, Ambetter from Home State Health Wellcare By Allwell, and Wellcare.

Prior Authorization Information

To ensure that authorization numbers have been obtained, please adhere to the following guidelines.

Outpatient and Inpatient MSK Surgeries:

- Emergency musculoskeletal surgery (admitted via the Emergency Room) do not require prior authorization through NIA.
- Non-emergent outpatient and inpatient hip, knee, shoulder, and spine surgery services require prior authorization through NIA.
- **Note:** Facility admissions do not require a separate prior authorization. However, the facility should ensure that an NIA authorization has been obtained prior to scheduling the surgery.
- NIA's medical necessity review and determination is for the authorization of the surgeon's professional services and type of surgery being performed. NIA will provide Home State Health, Ambetter from Home State Health, Wellcare, and Wellcare By Allwell with the surgery type requested and authorization determination.
- Authorizations are valid for 120 days from the date of request for Home State Health, Ambetter from Home State Health and Wellcare By Allwell members. Authorizations are valid for 90 days from the date of request for Wellcare members.

Checking Authorizations

You can check on the status of authorization requests quickly and easily by going to the NIA website, www.RadMD.com. After sign-in, select the **My Exam Requests** tab to view authorization requests and verify status.

Submitting Claims

Claims are submitted to the Health Plan for electronic submission/

Home State Health, Ambetter from Home State Health and Wellcare By Allwell payor ID numbers are 68069. Wellcare payor ID number is 14163.

Frequently Asked Questions

In this section NIA addresses commonly asked questions received from providers.

Where can I find NIA's Guidelines for MSK procedures?

Guidelines can be found on NIA's website at www.RadMD.com.

Is prior authorization necessary if Home State Health, Ambetter from Home State Health, Wellcare By Allwell, and Wellcare is not the member's primary insurance?

Please refer to health plan guidelines.

What does the NIA authorization number look like?

The NIA authorization number consists of alpha/numeric characters (e.g., 1234X567). In some cases, the ordering provider may instead receive an NIA tracking number (not the same as an authorization number) if the physician's authorization request is not approved at the time of initial contact. Providers can use either number to track the status of their request on the RadMD website or via our Interactive Voice Response telephone system.

Who can I contact at NIA for questions, complaints, and appeals, etc.?

Please use the following NIA contacts by type of issue:

- To educate your staff on NIA procedures and to assist you with any provider issues or concerns, contact your NIA Area Provider Relations Manager.
- Preauthorization and claims payment complaints/appeals: Follow the instructions on your non-authorization letter or Explanation of Benefit (EOB)/Explanation of Payment (EOP) notification.

How do referring/ordering physicians know who NIA is?

Home State Health, Ambetter from Home State Health, Wellcare By Allwell, and NIA share training and education materials with physicians and surgeons prior to the implementation. Home State Health, Ambetter from Home State Health, Wellcare By Allwell, and NIA also coordinate outreach and orientation for providers.

What do the member ID cards look like? Do they have NIA and Home State Health, Ambetter from Home State Health, Wellcare By Allwell, and Wellcare information on the cards?

The Home State Health, Ambetter from Home State Health, Wellcare By Allwell, and Wellcare member ID cards do not have NIA identifying information on it.