

Advanced Imaging Services Need Prior Authorization

To help ensure your employees receive the appropriate care in the proper setting and to improve patient outcomes, Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania contracted with National Imaging Associates* (NIA). NIA reviews prior authorization requests for the following advanced imaging and cardiac-related procedures:

- Stress Echo
- Computed Tomography (CT)/Computer Tomography Angiography (CTA)/Cardiac Computed Tomography Angiography (CCTA)
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)/Magnetic Resonance Angiography (MRA)
- Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Scan
- Diagnostic Nuclear Medicine/Nuclear Cardiology [Myocardial Perfusion Imaging (MPI)]
- Emergency room, observation and inpatient imaging procedures do not require prior authorization.

What You and Your Employees Need to Do:

- If using a network provider, he or she will initiate prior authorization for you.
- If using a non-network provider, it is your responsibility to be sure that prior authorization is obtained. If the provider does not receive prior authorization, the claim may not be paid and you may be responsible for payment.
- If you have questions about which services need prior authorization, call a service representative at the number on the back of your ID card.
- If your doctor orders advanced imaging, please remind him or her to obtain prior authorization.
- You and your employees may be contacted by NIA if they recommend a more appropriate facility to perform the study than the one requested by your doctor.

*Please note: The NIA radiology benefit management program does **not** apply to self-funded employer groups with First Priority Health or First Priority Life products. Providers will continue to follow the prior authorization process currently in place through BCNEPA for radiology services for members of FPH and FPLIC self-funded groups.*

** Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania provides radiology network management services with administrative assistance from National Imaging Associates, Inc., an independent radiology benefits management company not affiliated with the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.*