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# SPECIAL BULLETIN

FOR PROFESSIONAL AND FACILITY PROVIDERS

AUG. 3, 2016

## RADIOLOGY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM UPDATES CHANGES EFFECTIVE 10/3/2016

- **16 NEW CT/MR IMAGING CPT CODES**
- **CLINICAL VALIDATION OF RECORDS**
- **PRIOR AUTHORIZATION FOR STRESS ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY**

As you know, Highmark maintains a Radiology Management Program, with services provided by National Imaging Associates, Inc. (NIA). This program promotes quality and patient safety for selected outpatient, non-emergency imaging services. Using nationally accepted clinical criteria, Highmark and NIA work closely with imaging providers and ordering physicians to ensure members receive the most appropriate imaging tests, avoid the inconvenience and expense of unnecessary and/or duplicative services, and reduce members' exposure to unnecessary radiation. Providers who order selected outpatient, non-emergency imaging scans for their Highmark patients must obtain prior authorization through NIA.

### **16 ADDITIONAL CT/MR IMAGING CPT CODES WILL REQUIRE PRIOR AUTHORIZATION**

Beginning with dates of service of Oct. 3, 2016, Highmark's Radiology Management Program will be expanded to include the following Imaging CPT codes:

***(Continued)***

Authorized CPT Code	Description	Allowable Billed Groupings
70336	MRI Temporomandibular Joint	70336
70480	CT Orbit	70480, 70481, 70482
70551	MRI Internal Auditory Canal	70551, 70552, 70553, 70540, 70542, 70543
70554	Functional MRI Brain	70554, 70555
71550	MRI Chest	71550, 71551, 71552
72128	CT Thoracic Spine	72128, 72129, 72130
72196	MRI Pelvis	72195, 72196, 72197
73200	CT Upper Extremity	73200, 73201, 73202
73220	MRI Upper Extremity, Other Than Joint	73218, 73219, 73220
74712	Fetal MRI	74712, 74713
76380	Follow Up, Limited or Localized CT	76380, 70486, 70487, 70488
76497	Unlisted Computed Tomography Procedure	76497
76498	Unlisted Magnetic Resonance Procedure	76498
77084	MRI Bone Marrow	77084
78472	MUGA Scan	78472, 78473, 78494, +78496
0159T	Computer Aided Detection (CAD) Breast MRI	0159T

### STRESS ECHOCARDIOLOGY WILL REQUIRE PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Also beginning with dates of service on or after Oct. 3, 2016, stress echocardiography will change from notification only to **prior authorization**, based on medical necessity criteria. Providers must request an authorization prior to ordering the outpatient, non-emergency stress echocardiography

Authorized CPT Code	Description	Allowable Billed Groupings
93350	Stress Echocardiography	93350, 93351, +93320, +93321, +93325, +93352

### CLINICAL VALIDATION OF RECORDS

NIA will also be implementing a Clinical Validation of Records (CVR) process for all codes that are part of the Radiology Management Program. This process will help to ensure Highmark patients receive the most appropriate, effective care. The CVR process will include the **request and review of clinical information by NIA**.

- As part of the authorization process, providers will now be required to fax to NIA certain pieces of a patient's medical records and/or additional clinical information as part of the clinical review for determination.
- At the end of an authorization request, if the request is pended for additional clinical information, a fax to the ordering provider will immediately go to the office specifying what clinical documentation from the patient's medical record for the study ordered is needed. The provider will fax back to NIA the requested information. This is required before final determination can be made.

**(Continued)**

- NIA will be validating the clinical criteria within the patients' medical records, ensuring that the clinical criteria support the requested procedures and are clearly documented in medical records.
- All reviews will continue to be processed under the NCQA and regulatory guidelines set forth in NIA's contract with Highmark as they are today.
- Urgent reviews will continue to be called into NIA and clinical validation will not be required under those circumstances.

For more information regarding the addition of these procedure codes to the Radiology Management Program, providers should call Provider Services at 1-866-731-8080.

**Please note:**

- To make scheduling of the newly added studies/procedures as efficient as possible leading up to the Oct. 3, 2016, effective date, NIA will begin accepting authorization requests via NaviNet® or via NIA's Call Center from ordering physicians on Sept. 26, 2016 for dates of service beginning October 3, 2016.
- As a reminder, NaviNet is preferred for requesting authorizations. Providers who do not have NaviNet should call NIA.
- Although Highmark's Radiology Management Program applies to patients enrolled in all Highmark health plans, some employer or customer groups may opt out of the program. Before ordering any scans included in the program, providers should check the member's eligibility and benefits to determine if the member's benefits are subject to the Radiology Management Program. This can be done via NaviNet or by calling Provider Services at 1-866-731-8080.
- The program doesn't apply to outpatient imaging services ordered while patients are in the emergency room, urgent care, surgery center, inpatient imaging services or imaging services provided during observation stays.

**For More Information**

Providers can find detailed information about this program, including clinical guidelines and the most current list of authorized CPT codes that are included, under **Radiology Management Program** on the Provider Resource Center (PRC). You can access the PRC via NaviNet or under **Helpful Links** on Highmark's website.