

Medical Specialty Solutions

Cardiac Imaging Frequently Asked Questions

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 does the Medical Specialty Solutions (MSS) program begin?

The MSS program begins on October 1, 2016.

How does the program work?

The cardiac imaging management program assesses imaging technologies used to diagnose and monitor patients 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 Presbyterian Health Plan program?

Prior authorization will be required for the following cardiac modalities:

- Myocardial perfusion imaging (MPI).
- Muga scan.
- Stress echocardiography.
- Echocardiography.
- Coronary computed tomography angiography (CCTA).

What additional resources are available to contracted cardiac specialty providers?

- Evidence-based algorithms to support the best diagnostic options for each patient.
- Consultations with cardiologists related to elective cardiac diagnostic imaging when peer-to-peer review is required.
- Quality assessment of imaging providers to ensure the highest technical and professional standards.

What do ordering providers need to do?

Ordering providers need to get prior authorization for non-emergent:

- Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)/Magnetic resonance angiography (MRA).

- Computed tomography (CT)/Computed tomography angiography (CTA).
- CCCTA.
- Positron emission tomography (PET) scan.
- Stress echocardiography.
- Nuclear cardiology/Nuclear stress/MPI.
- Muga scan.
- Echocardiography.

Who will administer clinical oversight of the cardiac-related imaging procedures in the MSS program?

Board-certified cardiologists working with community-based physicians have developed evidence-based clinical guidelines and algorithms that determine the best available diagnostic pathway. These board-certified cardiologists also consult with referring physicians to apply these guidelines and algorithms to a patient's specific symptoms and medical history. By determining the most appropriate clinical imaging protocol for each patient, we can reduce duplicate testing, minimize patient radiation exposure, avoid indication drift, shorten diagnosis time, and improve the overall healthcare experience.

Is there anything I should be doing before the program begins?

If you haven't done so already, please take a few minutes to register on <https://www1.radmd.com/radmd-home.aspx>. This portal gives you the most expedient way to process your imaging requests.

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

Presbyterian will continue to manage inpatient and emergency cardiac procedures in accordance with the current authorization requirements.

Do emergency room and inpatient imaging procedure require prior authorization?

No, emergency room and inpatient imaging procedures are not included in the program and do not require prior authorization.