Operations Bulletin

Date: October 30, 2014

To: Participating Geisinger Health Plan Providers

Re: **NIA Authorization Requests and Exemption Program**

As a partner in the administration of Geisinger Health Plan's (GHP) radiology benefit management program, National Imaging Associates (NIA) strives to reduce unnecessary imaging and support the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) and GHP's program integrity requirements. GHP and NIA initiated the clinical review process in February 2012 to ensure that clinically appropriate care is provided to GHP members. NIA routinely evaluates the clinical review processes according to physicians' ordering patterns and trends and periodically targets additional tests for review. As of December 15, 2014, GHP and NIA will expand the clinical review process to include the following modalities, in addition to the existing list:

Existing services requiring NIA clinical review:

- Lumbar Spine MRI
- Cervical Spine MRI
- Chest CT
- Abdomen & Pelvis CT
- Brain CT
- Brain MRI
- Knee MRI
- Cardiac TTE

Services requiring NIA clinical review beginning December 15, 2014:

- Abdomen CT
- Abdomen MR
- Ankle MR
- Foot MR
- Hip MR
- Lumbar Spine CT
- Neck CT
- Nuclear Cardiology Study (MPI)
- Pelvis MR
- PET Scan
- Shoulder MR
- Sinus CT
- Thoracic Spine MR

After evaluating individual physician performance through the NIA prior authorization program, GHP will recognize physicians who have consistently met NIA criteria during the review period (12/1/13 – 8/31/14). ***Physicians who have submitted more than fifty (50) requests for authorizations to NIA and have less than a five percent (5%) denial rate during the review period will be exempt from the clinical review process for all tests as of December 15, 2014.***

Qualifying providers will still need to contact NIA, either by phone or through RadMD.com, but will not be required to submit clinical documentation and will be exempt from peer-to-peer reviews. NIA will review the entire network annually to ensure that the exemption criteria are still being met for exempt providers and to determine if additional physicians have met the criteria and can be added to the exemption list. Exempt physicians will be notified of their status by GHP in a separate communication.

Information contained in this bulletin amends the Participating Provider Guide, effective December 15, 2014. For additional information on NIA's clinical review process, please contact the NIA Radiology Network Services Team at (800) 327-0641. For other inquiries, please contact your GHP Provider Relations Representative at (800) 876-5357.

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https://spghp/pcoc/Communications/Forms/Comm_Warehouse/NIA_CVR_Expansion_Ops_Bulletin_091914
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