

November 1, 2019

Cardiac Solutions

IlliniCare Health Plan in collaboration with NIA Magellan, will launch a cardiac imaging program to promote health care quality for patients with possible cardiac disease.

Under this program, prior authorization will be required for certain cardiac studies to determine if the cardiac test or procedure is the most appropriate next step in a patient's diagnosis or treatment—and to recommend an alternate approach when indicated. By supporting the most efficient diagnosis and management of cardiac disease, NIA Magellan addresses unnecessary procedures and promotes the least invasive, most medically appropriate approach.

NIA Magellan has developed proprietary utilization management guidelines for these cardiac modalities. These consensus-based guidelines draw on current literature, American College of Cardiology (ACC) appropriateness criteria, recommendations from the American Heart Association, and input from our Cardiac Advisory Board and other experts. Our guidelines are transparent and available throughout our programs. NIA Magellan also includes references to the Choosing Wisely campaign by the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) Foundation, which provides specialty society considerations for the selection of appropriate tests.

How does this program improve patient health?

Managing cardiac studies will promote the use of optimal diagnostic methods in the assessment and treatment of cardiac diseases. Based on criteria adapted from the ACC and AMA, this program will minimize patients' radiation exposure by using the most efficient and least invasive testing options available.

Program Components

Evidence-based clinical guidelines and proprietary algorithms to support clinically appropriate diagnostic options for each patient

Consultations with cardiologists related to elective cardiac diagnostic imaging, when needed

Quality assessment of imaging providers to ensure the highest technical and professional standards

How the Program Works

In addition to the other procedures that currently require prior authorization for members, prior authorization will be required for the following cardiac procedures:

- Myocardial Perfusion Imaging (MPI)
- MUGA Scan
- Echocardiography
- Stress Echocardiography

The following services do not require authorization through NIA Magellan:

- Inpatient advanced radiology services
- Observation setting advanced radiology services
- Emergency Room radiology services

To reach NIA and obtain authorization, please call **866-329-4701** and follow the prompt for radiology and cardiac authorizations. NIA also provides an interactive website which may be used to obtain on-line authorizations. Please visit RadMD.com for more information.