

Special eBulletin

August 6, 2010

Update on Cardiology Services Being Added to Radiology Management Program:

Effective Sept. 1, 2010, Stress Echocardiography Will Require Prior Notification

Effective Sept. 1, 2010, stress echocardiography will require prior notification, not authorization, as previously announced in *Behind the Shield*, Issue Two, 2010. (Myocardial perfusion imaging/nuclear cardiology services will still required authorization, effective Sept. 1, 2010.)

The requirement for stress echocardiography is being adjusted so that, for a period of time, we can accomplish two important goals.

- 1) Highmark can collect data to determine the appropriateness of ongoing requests for stress echocardiography, using nationally accepted clinical standards and appropriate use criteria from the American College of Cardiology.
- 2) Providers will have time to build capacity for stress echocardiography requests, during which no substitute service will be suggested when prior-authorization is requested for myocardial perfusion imaging/nuclear cardiology.

During this time frame, stress echocardiography will not be subject to denials, providing the ordering physician reports all pertinent information via the prior notification process, described below.

What You Need to Know

Beginning with dates of service of Sept. 1, 2010, and beyond, Highmark's Radiology Management Program will require:

PRIOR NOTIFICATION for:

CPT Code	Description	Allowed Billable Groupings
93350	Stress Echocardiography	93350, 93351, 93352

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION for:

CPT Code	Description	Allowed Billable Groupings
78451	Myocardial Perfusion Imaging — Nuclear Cardiology	78451, 78452, 78453, 78454, 78466, 78468, 78469, 78481, 78483, 78494, 78499

(Over, please)



Highmark is a registered mark of Highmark Inc. Blue Cross, Blue Shield and the Cross and Shield symbols are registered service marks of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, an association of independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans.

NaviNet is a registered trademark of NaviNet, Inc. NaviNet, Inc. is an independent company that provides a secure, Web-based portal between providers and health care insurance companies.

NIA is a service mark of Magellan Health Services, Inc., an independent company that supports Highmark's Radiology Management Program.

Prior Authorization vs. Prior Notification

- **Prior Authorization:** The ordering physician's office staff uses NaviNet®*to contact NIA^{SM**} for authorization before scheduling the test. All pertinent information on the patient, test, history, etc., is required. Then, NIA staff use nationally accepted clinical standards and appropriate use criteria from the American College of Cardiology to determine the appropriateness of the test. Authorization numbers and/or denials may be issued based on medical necessity determinations.
- **Prior Notification:** The ordering physician's office staff uses NaviNet* to contact NIA before scheduling the test. The purpose is to report all pertinent information so that Highmark may collect data and determine the appropriateness of ongoing requests for stress echocardiography. However, no denials are issued, and no substitute services are suggested. NIA will issue an authorization number. Please note: although no denials are issued, this step is mandatory. Unless providers report the data, they cannot obtain an authorization number, which is required for reimbursement.

*Using NaviNet is the preferred way to request authorizations. If you don't yet have NaviNet, you may contact NIA via telephone at 1-800-547-3627, Option 4, to request authorizations.

**National Imaging Associates, Inc. (NIA) is the imaging management firm that supports Highmark's Radiology Management Program.

For More Information

For complete details, [click here](#) to view the Highmark Radiology Management Program page on the Resource Center.