



UPDATES TO PRIOR AUTHORIZATION GUIDELINES FOR IMAGING PROCEDURES Effective March 1, 2021

January 30, 2021

In keeping with our commitment of promoting continuous quality improvement for services provided to Care1st Health Plan Arizona (Care1st) and WellCare members, Care1st and WellCare has entered into an agreement with National Imaging Associates, Inc. (NIA)¹, to implement a radiology benefit management program. This program includes management of non-emergent, advanced, outpatient imaging services to include prior authorization for Care1st’s Medicaid and WellCare’s Medicare members. This decision is consistent with industry-wide efforts to ensure clinically appropriate quality of care and to manage the increasing utilization of these services.

Under terms of this agreement, Care1st and WellCare will oversee the NIA program and continue to be responsible for claims adjudication and NIA will manage the prior authorization process for the non-emergent outpatient imaging services.

Effective March 1, 2021, prior authorization **will be required** for the following outpatient imaging procedures.

▪ CT/CTA	▪ CCTA	▪ MRI/MRA	▪ PET Scan
▪ Myocardial Perfusion Imaging	▪ MUGA Scan	▪ Stress Echocardiography	▪ Echocardiography

Be on the lookout for additional information and training on prior authorization guideline updates, NIA website navigation and log in information as we get closer to the implementation date!

We appreciate your support and look forward to your assistance in assuring our members receive diagnostic imaging services delivered in a quality, clinically appropriate manner.

If you have any questions related to the information outlined above, please contact Care1st Network Management using the information below.

Thank you!

¹National Imaging Associates, Inc. (NIA) is a subsidiary of Magellan Healthcare, Inc.