

# Radiology Management Program

## Radiology Management Program Update: Effective 9/1/10 Program Will Expand to Include Selected Nuclear Cardiology and Stress Echocardiography Services

Since 2005, Highmark has maintained a Radiology Management Program to promote quality and patient safety of selected outpatient, non-emergency imaging services for its group customers and members. Highmark retains the services of National Imaging Associates Inc. (NIA), a radiology benefits management firm, to support the program. Using Highmark medical policy and nationally accepted clinical criteria, Highmark and NIA work closely with imaging providers and ordering physicians to ensure our members receive the most appropriate imaging tests; avoid the inconvenience and expense of unnecessary and/or duplicative services; and reduce their exposure to unnecessary radiation.

Through the program, physicians ordering selected outpatient, non-emergency imaging scans for their Highmark patients must obtain prior authorization through NIA.

**Beginning with dates of service of Sept. 1, 2010, and beyond, Highmark's Radiology Management Program will be expanded to include selected nuclear cardiology and stress echocardiography services. As a result, effective with dates of service of Sept. 1, 2010 and beyond, providers will need to request an authorization prior to ordering the outpatient, non-emergency imaging procedures represented by the following 14 procedure codes (Allowed Billable Groupings):**

Authorized CPT Code	Description	Allowed Billable Groupings
78451	Myocardial Perfusion Imaging — Nuclear Cardiology	78451, 78452, 78453, 78454, 78466, 78468, 78469, 78481, 78483, 78494, 78499
93350	Stress Echocardiography	93350, 93351, 93352

In adding the above-noted nuclear cardiology and stress echocardiography scans to the program, Highmark and NIA have followed clinical guidelines established by the American College of Cardiology. By expanding the program in this way, Highmark is acting to minimize patients' radiation exposure and to utilize the most appropriate, efficient and least invasive testing options available. For more information regarding the addition of these procedure codes to the Radiology Management Program, providers may call their Highmark Provider Relations representative.

**Please Note:** To make scheduling of the newly added scans as efficient as possible leading up to the Sept. 1, 2010 effective date, NIA will begin accepting authorization requests via NaviNet from ordering physicians for the selected nuclear cardiology and stress echocardiography procedures on Aug. 16, 2010. Using NaviNet® is the preferred way to request authorizations. However, if you don't yet have NaviNet, you may call, toll-free, 1-866-731-8080, Option 4, to request authorizations.

### Reminder: Program Applies to Specific Highmark Products

Highmark's Radiology Management Program applies to patients enrolled in DirectBlue®, PPOBlue<sup>SM</sup>, FreedomBlue<sup>SM</sup> PPO, EPOBlue<sup>SM</sup> and PPOPlus<sup>SM</sup>. However, certain employer or customer groups may opt out of the program; therefore, before ordering any scans included in the program, providers should be sure to check members' eligibility and benefits via NaviNet® or through the available HIPAA electronic transactions or by calling Provider Service to determine if their benefits are subject to the Radiology Management Program.

The program doesn't apply to outpatient imaging services ordered while patients are in the emergency room, inpatient imaging services or imaging services provided during observation stays.

### For More Information

Providers can access detailed information about the Highmark Radiology Management Program (including the program's clinical guidelines, prior authorization requirements and the most current list of diagnostic imaging procedures [DIP] levels and authorized CPT codes included in the program) on Highmark's online Provider Resource Center. The Resource Center is accessible via the Highmark-sponsored NaviNet system or through the *Providers* tab on Highmark's Web site. On the Resource Center, simply click on *Highmark Radiology Management Program* to access the information. Physicians are reminded to consult the current list of procedures online before ordering scans included in the program for their Highmark patients.

