

Dear Provider,

Beginning July 1, 2021, Meridian is pleased to announce we are expanding our partnership with National Imaging Associates, Inc. (NIA) to provide utilization management for Interventional Pain Management (IPM), outpatient rehabilitative and habilitative physical medicine services for Meridian's membership. This program is consistent with industry-wide efforts ensuring that IPM and physical medicine services provided to our members are consistent with nationally recognized clinical guidelines. This expansion will apply to Meridian's product lines listed below:

- MeridianHealth – Medicaid
- WellCare – Medicare
- MeridianComplete – Medicare-Medicaid Plan (MMP)

Under terms of the agreement between Meridian and NIA, Meridian will oversee the IPM and physical medicine program, and continue to be responsible for claims adjudication and medical policies. NIA will manage non-emergent outpatient IPM procedures, outpatient rehabilitative and habilitative services through the existing contractual relationships with Meridian Health Plan.

Prior authorizations will be required for the following services:

Interventional Pain Management (IPM)

- Spinal Epidural Injections
- Paravertebral Facet Joint Injections or Blocks
- Paravertebral Facet Joint Denervation (Radiofrequency [RF] Neurolysis)
- Sacroiliac Joint Injections

Physical Medicine Service *

- Physical therapy services
- Occupational therapy services
- Speech therapy services (MeridianComplete – Medicare-Medicaid Plan (MMP) and WellCare – Medicare only)

**Authorization for physical medicine services is required after the first initial evaluation. All subsequent visits will require authorization through NIA.*

Services other than the procedures outlined above will continue to follow Meridian's prior authorization requirements.

Any services rendered on or after July 1, 2021 will require authorization. Prior authorization will be available beginning **June 21, 2021** for dates of service July 1, 2021 and beyond. Authorizations can be obtained through the website, **www.RadMD.com** or by calling NIA's Call Center **866-842-1767**.

KEY PROVISIONS:

- It is the responsibility of the ordering physician to obtain prior authorization for all IPM procedures outlined above.
- The ordering physician must obtain prior authorization with NIA prior to performing the procedure.
- To obtain authorization, the provider should visit **www.RadMD.com** or call the NIA dedicated toll-free phone number 1-866-842-1767. Failure to do so may result in nonpayment of your claim.
- Please keep in mind you will need to ensure that the member's therapy benefit has not been exhausted prior to providing services, even if an "Approved Authorization" has been obtained. This can be accomplished by calling Meridian Health Plan Provider Services at **888-773-2647**.

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

We will provide additional information as we get closer to the implementation date. Should you have questions at this time, please contact Meridian Provider Services at **888-773-2647**.

Sincerely,

Meridian