

Dear Valued Health Care Practitioner:

The Health Division of Principal Life Insurance Company is committed to implementing best practices in evidence-based care in support of our overall goal: to ensure that our members receive the right care, in the right place, at the right time. As part of this effort, we have updated our advanced imaging guidelines to verify the medical appropriateness of radiology procedures.

Effective Sept. 1, 2009, we will implement a precertification review program for outpatient advanced imaging procedures.

We have entered into an agreement with National Imaging Associates, Inc. (NIA) to manage this process. Under terms of the agreement, Principal Life will retain responsibility and control over claims adjudication and all medical policies and procedures while NIA will manage the precertification process for imaging/radiology procedures. This precertification review does not refer or redirect members to designated preferred providers.

Please contact NIA for review prior to scheduling an advanced imaging study. NIA will also perform post-service reviews that are initiated upon Principal Life's receipt of a claim. If a precertification review is not completed, rendering facilities will be advised to contact the ordering physician and request that he/she contact NIA for post-service review.

Precertification review applies to the following outpatient radiology procedures:

- CT/CTA scan
- Nuclear cardiology
- MRI/MRA
- PET scan

Important precertification considerations:

- It is the responsibility of the ordering physician to contact NIA for a review of advanced imaging procedures before the study is performed. To initiate the review process, please log on to NIA's Web site, www.RadMD.com, or call NIA toll-free at 888-899-7805.
- Providers performing the aforementioned radiology procedures should verify that a precertification or a post-service review has been performed. Claims will be paid based upon the outcome of the completed precertification or post-service review.
- Emergency room, inpatient imaging and procedures performed in urgent care facilities do not require precertification. Urgent care services, however, do require a post-service review within one business day from the date the service was provided.
- Any member who does not have primary health coverage through Principal Life is excluded from this agreement.

We appreciate your support and look forward to your assistance in assuring that Principal Life members receive advanced imaging procedures delivered in a quality, clinically appropriate fashion.

Your attention to the enclosed guide is greatly appreciated, as adherence to this new precertification review process is necessary to ensure proper payment of claims.

For more information about Principal Life's approach to care management, call 800-247-4695.

Sincerely,



Thomas G. Dehn, M.D., FACR
Executive Vice President, Chief Medical Officer
National Imaging Associates, Inc.



Naim Munir, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer
Principal Life Insurance Company



WE'LL GIVE YOU AN EDGE®

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