



Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska Musculoskeletal (MSK) Management Program

Provider Training



Evolut Program Agenda

Our MSK Program

- ✓ Authorization Process
 - Other Program Components
- ✓ Provider Tools and Contact Information
- ✓ RadMD Demo
- ✓ Questions and Answers

Evolent

Connecting Our Brands is About Connecting Care



MSK Prior Authorization Program



- Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska will expand its prior authorization program through Evolent for the management of MSK Services.



- Medicare Advantage program start: Jan. 1, 2025
- Commercial plan program start: Sept. 1, 2015
- Begin obtaining authorizations from Evolent on Jan. 1, 2025, for services rendered on or after Jan. 1, 2025.



- Interventional pain management
- Inpatient and outpatient lumbar and cervical spine surgeries
- Surgery Center
- In Office
- Hospital



- Medicare Advantage Programs
- Commercial Programs



- Evolent will manage services through Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska's contractual relationships.

Interventional Pain Management (IPM)

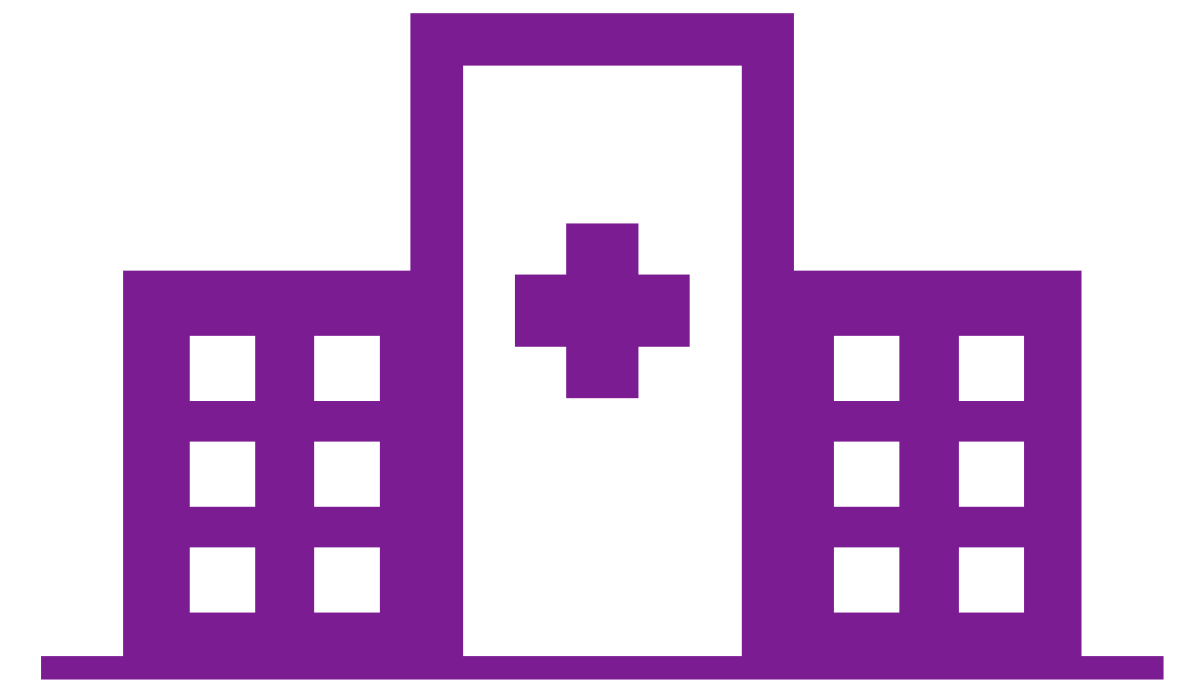
IPM Procedures Performed Outpatient

- Spinal Epidural Injections
- Paravertebral Facet Joint Injections of Blocks
- Paravertebral Facet Joint Denervation (Radiofrequency (RF) Neurolysis)

IPM Exclusions

Exclusions

- Hospital Inpatient
- Observation Room
- Emergency Room/Urgent Care Facility



Lumbar and Cervical Spine Surgery

Lumbar and Cervical Spine Surgeries Performed Inpatient and Outpatient

- Lumbar Microdiscectomy
- Lumbar Decompression (Laminotomy, Laminectomy, Facetectomy and Foraminotomy)
- Lumbar Spine Fusion (Arthrodesis) With or Without Decompression
 - Single and Multiple Levels
- Lumbar Artificial Disc – Single and Multiple Levels
- Cervical Anterior Decompression with Fusion – Single and Multiple Levels
- Cervical Posterior Decompression with Fusion – Single and Multiple Levels
- Cervical Posterior Decompression (without fusion)
- Cervical Artificial Disc Replacement – Single and Multiple Levels
- Cervical Anterior Decompression (without fusion)

Surgery Exclusions





Exclusions

- Emergency Surgery – admitted via the Emergency Room



Reconstructive spinal deformity surgery does not require prior authorization. However, Evolent will monitor provider use of CPT codes 22800-22819.

CPT Codes Requiring Prior Authorization

-  Review Claims/Utilization Review Matrix to determine CPT codes managed by Evolent.
-  Includes CPT Codes and their Allowable Billable Groupings.
-  Located on [RadMD.com](https://www.radmd.com).
-  Defer to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska's Policies for Procedures not on Claims/Utilization Review Matrix.

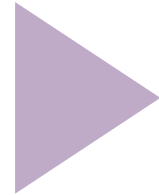
LUMBAR SPINE SURGERY PROCEDURES				
Procedure Name	Primary CPT Code	Allowable Billed Groupings	Additional Covered Procedures/Code	Ancillary Procedures/Code
Lumbar Microdiscectomy	63030	62380, 63030, +63035		
Lumbar Decompression	63047	63005, 63012, 63017, 63042, +63044, 63047, +63048, 63056, +63057	Microdiscectomy: 62380, 63030, +63035	
Lumbar Fusion – Single Level	22612	22533, 22558, 22612, 22630, 22633, +63052, +63053	Microdiscectomy: 62380, 63030, +63035 Decompression: 63005, 63012, 63017, 63042, +63044, 63047, +63048, 63056, +63057	Instrumentation: +22840, +22841, +22842, +22845, +22853 Bone Grafts: +20930, +20931, +20936, +20937, +20938 Bone Marrow Aspiration: 20939

Prior Authorization Process Overview

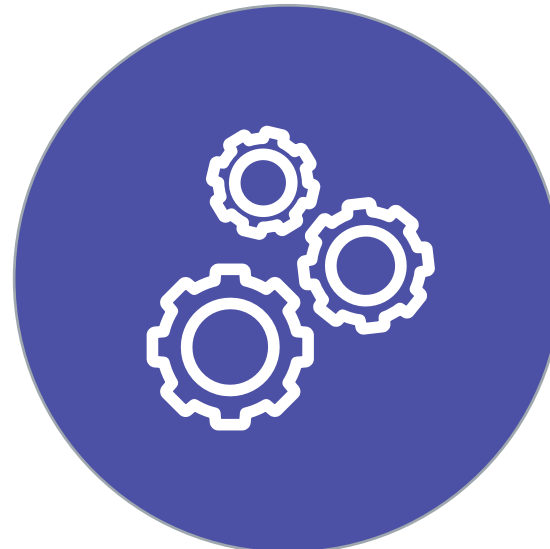


Ordering
Physician is responsible for obtaining prior authorization.

MSK provider may be both ordering and rendering



Submit requests online through [RadMD.com](https://www.radmd.com) or by phone



Information evaluated via algorithm and medical records



Service Authorized

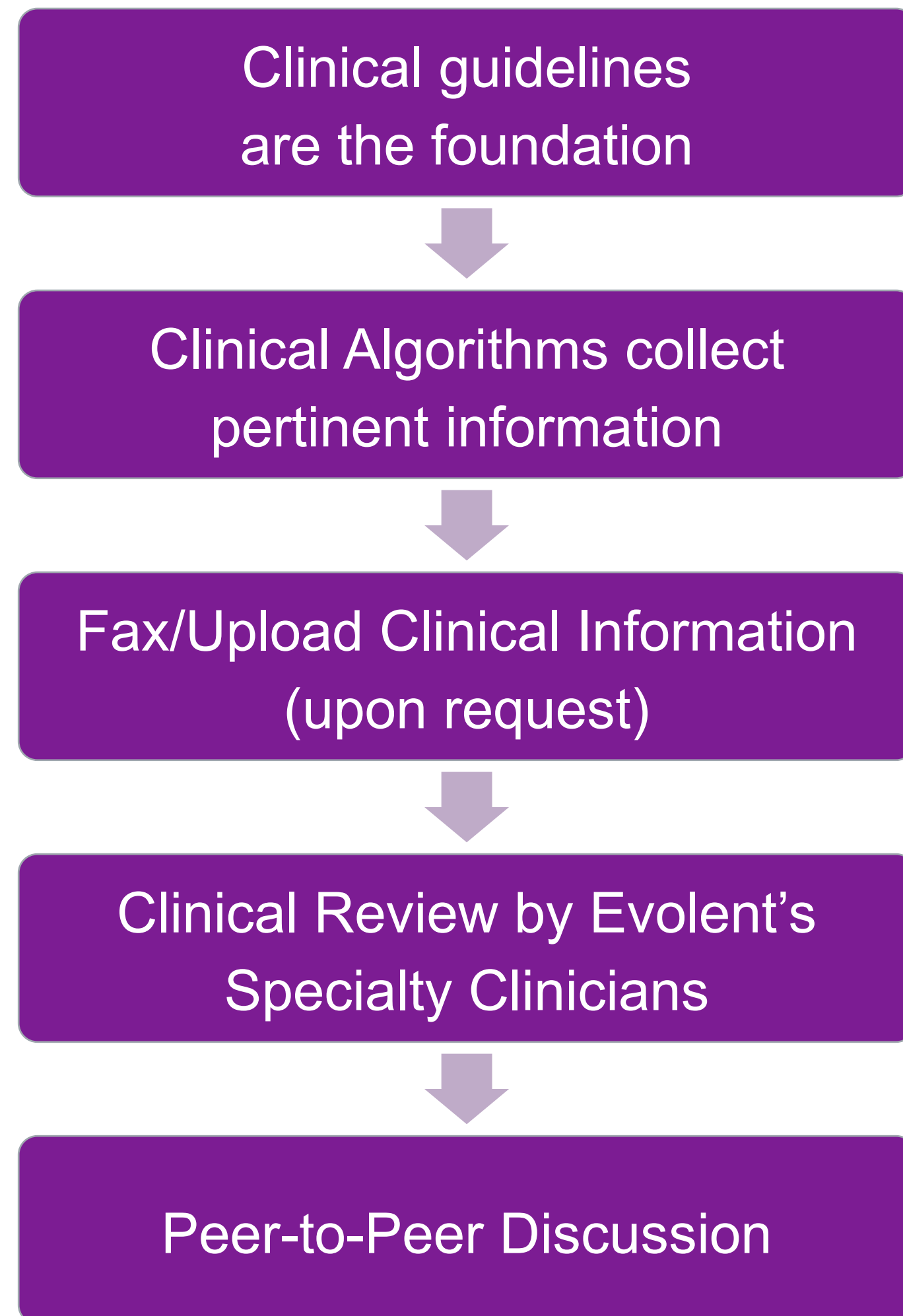


Rendering Provider verifies authorization was obtained and provides service



eClaims

Evolent's Clinical Foundation and Review



- **Clinical guidelines** were developed by practicing specialty physicians, through literature reviews and evidenced-based research. Guidelines are reviewed and mutually approved by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska and Evolent Medical Officers and clinical experts. **Clinical Guidelines are available on [RadMD.com](https://www.radmd.com)**
- Algorithms are a branching structure that changes depending upon the answer to each question.
- The member's clinical information/medical record will be required for validation of clinical criteria before an approval can be made.
- Evolent has a specialized clinical team focused on MSK.
- Peer-to-peer discussions are offered for any request that does not meet medical necessity guidelines.
- **Our goal – ensure that members are receiving appropriate care.**




Authorization for IPM

Special Information

- Every IPM procedure performed requires a prior authorization; Evolent will not authorize a series of epidural injections.
- Bi-lateral IPM injections performed on the same date of service do not require a separate authorization. An authorization will cover bi-lateral as well as multiple levels on the same date of service. (Please refer to clinical guidelines for potential restrictions)
- Add on codes do not require separate authorization and are to be used in conjunction with the approved primary code for the service rendered.

IPM Clinical Checklist Reminders

IPM Documentation

-  **Conservative Treatment:** Frequently, specifics of active conservative treatment/non-operative treatment are not present in office notes. Details such as duration and frequency should be provided in order to ensure **six weeks** has been attempted with the past **six months**. Official physical therapy records do not need to be obtained but the provider should supply a summary of these details. Physical therapy is not the only means of active conservative treatment acceptable; physician directed home exercise programs as well as chiropractic care are among other examples of appropriate treatments.
-  **Visual Analog Scale (VAS) Score and/or Functional Disability:** A VAS score is an acceptable method to relay intensity of pain. However, a description of functional disability is also accepted as a means for measuring pain (e.g., noting that the member is no longer able to perform work duties, daily care, etc.).
-  **Follow Up to Prior Pain Management Procedures:** For repeat treatments, follow up is required in regard to what procedure was completed, how much and for how long relief was obtained, active participation in ongoing conservative treatment, and to what level the pain has returned. A follow up office is not required; documentation of telephone encounters with the member are acceptable to satisfy this requirement.






Authorization for Surgery

Special Information

- Most surgeries require only one authorization request. Evolent provides a list of surgery categories to choose from and the surgeon's office must select the most complex and invasive surgery being performed as the primary surgery.
 - Example 1: A lumbar fusion authorization includes decompression, instrumentation, etc.
- ACDF and posterior cervical fusion require authorization for each procedure. These requests can be entered at the same time and will be reviewed concurrently.
- The ordering physician must obtain prior authorization with Evolent prior to performing the surgery/procedure.
- Date of service is required.
- Inpatient admissions continue to be subject to concurrent review by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska.
- Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska Medicare Advantage or Commercial plans require the facility or hospital admission to be authorized through the health plan separately and only initiated after the service has met Evolent's medical necessity criteria.

Surgery Clinical Checklist Reminders

Surgery Documentation

-  Details regarding the member's symptoms and their onset/duration
-  Physical exam findings
-  Conservative treatment modalities with dates and duration (e.g., physical therapy, home exercise plan, injections, medications, activity modification)
-  Diagnostic imaging results
-  Ordering physician's surgical plan (including a discussion about the potential risks and benefits of the procedure) (BMI, smoking history, mental status for some surgeries)

Evolut to Physician: Request for Clinical Information

- ✓ A fax is sent to the provider detailing what clinical information that is needed, along with a fax coversheet.
- ✓ We stress the need to provide the clinical information as quickly as possible so we can make a determination.
- ✓ Failure to receive requested clinical information may result in non certification.

Date: March

ORDERING PHYSICIAN:	Dr. Clifford		
FAX NUMBER:		TRACKING NUMBER:	
RE:	Authorization Request	MEMBER ID:	
PATIENT NAME:	Cindy I		
HEALTH PLAN:			

We have received your request for Lumbar Decompression. We are unable to approve based on the information provided to date, please respond to this fax as soon as possible.

Missing Clinical: Specific dates and duration of conservative treatment for 6 consecutive weeks in the last 6 months. Must include at least two of the following: physical therapy, physician-directed home exercise plan, epidural steroid injections, and/or medications.

Additional information is still needed.

We have received your request for **Lumbar Decompression** along with additional records. However, the information provided still does not support the medical necessity of these services to make a determination on this case. Please see the documentation needed below which may allow us to make a positive determination. Only sending daily notes may delay authorization.

Missing Clinical: Specific dates and duration of conservative treatment for 6 consecutive weeks in the last 6 months. Must include at least two of the following: physical therapy, physician-directed home exercise plan, epidural steroid injections, and/or medications.

You may submit records for this episode of care as requested by uploading them on www.radmd.com. Please do not resend the information previously submitted.

The ordering physician is responsible for obtaining prior authorizations and for submitting the clinical records if requested. Please respond as soon as possible with the clinical information identified above.

Receipt of written records is required in order to process your request. Once this information has been received, the case will be reviewed by a clinician, and you will be notified of the determination. The ordering provider may call to have a peer to peer discussion.

Submitting a prior authorization request on RadMD is fast and efficient!

Our provider portal, RadMD, is the easiest way to request authorizations, upload documents, access clinical guidelines and much more! To get started, visit www.RadMD.com, select **New User** and submit an **Application for New Account**.

Submitting Additional Clinical Information

- Records may be submitted:
 - Upload to [RadMD.com](https://www.radmd.com)
 - Fax using Evolent coversheet

- Location of Fax Coversheets:
 - Can be printed from [RadMD.com](https://www.radmd.com)
 - Call:
 - 1-866-972-9642 (Commercial)**
 - 1-800-424-4956 (Medicare Advantage)**

- Use the case specific fax coversheet when faxing clinical information to Evolent

Exam Request Verification: Detail

- [Upload Clinical Document](#)
- [Print Fax Cover Sheet](#)
- [Request Additional Visits](#)

Cases in this Request

Member		Provider	
Name:	Evo Lent	Name:	Memorial Hospital
Gender:	Female	Address:	123 Main St, New City, ST 12345
Date of Birth:	5/24/1971	Phone:	123-456-7890
Member ID:	AB123456	Tax ID:	987654321
Health Plan:	ABC Health Plan HMO	UPIN:	
Spoken Language:	ENGLISH	Specialty:	
Written Language:	ENGLISH		

Clinical Specialty Team: Focused on IPM



IPM Review

Initial clinical review performed by specialty trained IPM nurses

Clinical review team will contact provider for additional clinical information

Anesthesiologists and pain management specialists conduct clinical reviews and peer-to-peer discussions on IPM requests

Clinical Specialty Team: Focused on MSK



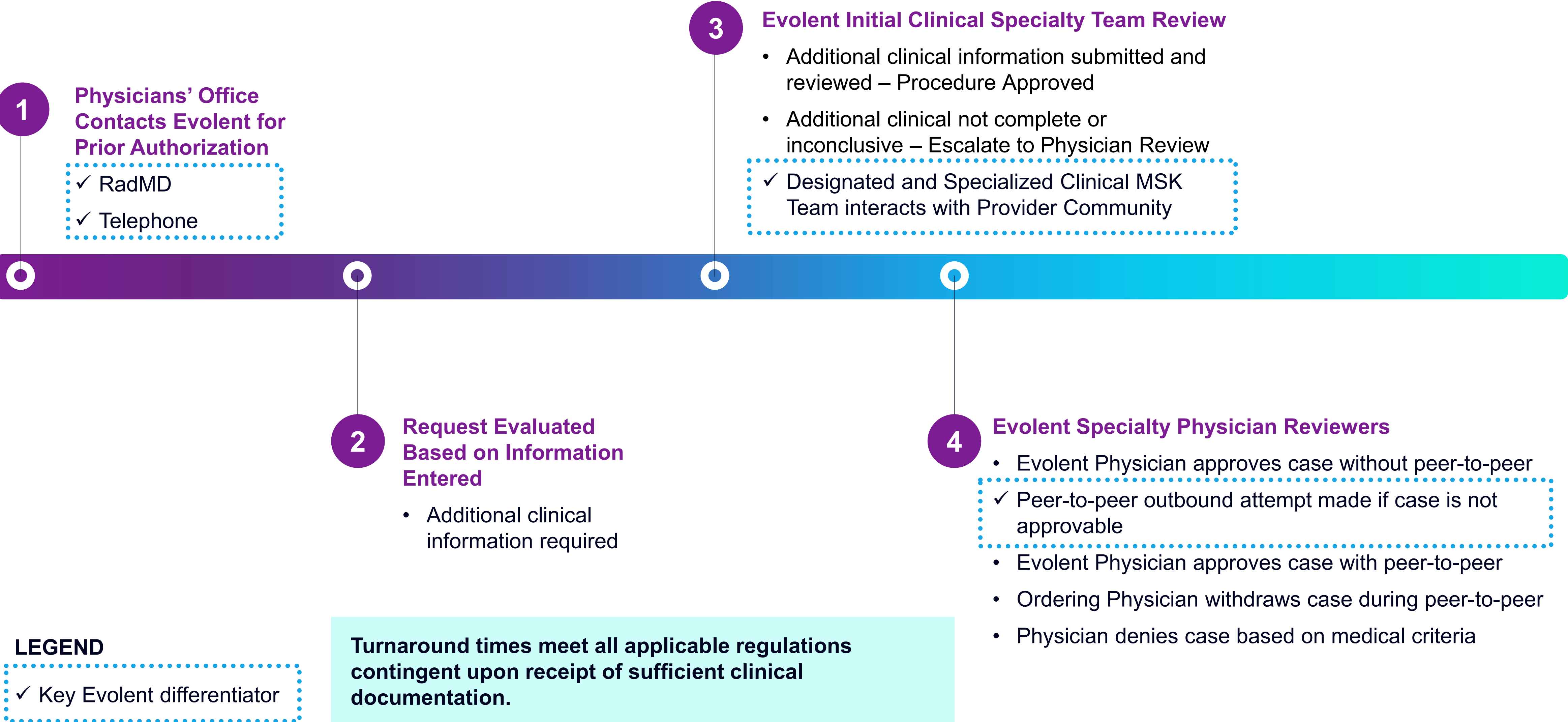
MSK Surgery Review

Initial clinical review performed by specialty trained surgery nurses

Surgery concierge team will contact provider for additional clinical information

Orthopedic surgeons and Neurosurgeons conduct clinical reviews and peer-to-peer discussions on surgery requests

MSK Clinical Review Process



Urgent/Expedited Authorization Process

- If an urgent clinical situation exists (outside of a hospital emergency room) during business hours, please call Evolent immediately.
- The Evolent website [RadMD.com](https://www.radmd.com) cannot be used for medically urgent or expedited prior authorization requests during business hours. Those requests must be processed by calling the Evolent call center at **1-866-972-9642** for Commercial plans and **1-800-424-4956** for Medicare Advantage plans.
- Turnaround time is within **one** business day not to exceed **72** calendar hours.

Authorization Validity Period

- **IPM**
 - **90** days from date of request
- **Surgery**
 - Inpatient — **90** days from date of request
 - Outpatient — SDC/Ambulatory – **90** days from date of request

Denial Notification

- Notifications include an explanation of services denied and the clinical rationale.
- A peer-to-peer discussion can be initiated once the adverse determination has been made **(Commercial)**
- **Medicare plans:** Effective 8/5/2024, peer-to-peer discussions must be performed before a final determination has been made on the request.
- **Medicare** re-opens are only allowed if the request complies with the CMS definition of a re-open. Providers will continue to have the option to submit an appeal utilizing the health plan's process.
- Reconsiderations for commercial plans are available with new or additional information within **seven calendar days** from the date of denial and prior to submitting a formal appeal.
- In the event of a denial, providers are asked to follow the instructions provided in their denial letter.

Claims and Appeals

Claims Process:

- Providers should continue to submit their claims to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska.
- Providers are strongly encouraged to use EDI claims submission.
- Check on claims status by logging on to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska website at www.navinet.net or by phone at **1-888-505-2022**.

Appeals Process:

- In the event of a prior authorization or claims payment denial, providers may appeal the decision through Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska.
- Providers should follow the instructions on their non-authorization letter or Explanation of Payment (EOP) notification.

IPM Points



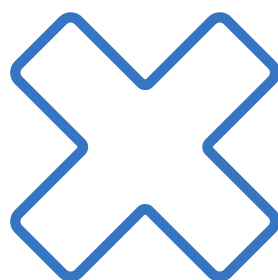
Injections in all regions of spine are managed



Date of Service is required for all requests



Each IPM procedure must be prior authorized



No series of epidural injections

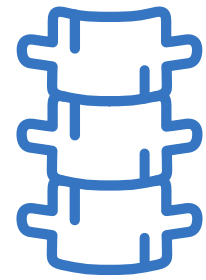


Specialty Nurses and Physicians review IPM requests

MSK Surgery Points: Lumbar/Cervical Spine Surgery



Inpatient and outpatient non-emergent surgeries



Spine Surgery is focused on lumbar and/or cervical spine surgeries



For spinal surgeries, only one authorization request per surgery. For example, a lumbar fusion authorization includes decompression, instrumentation, etc.

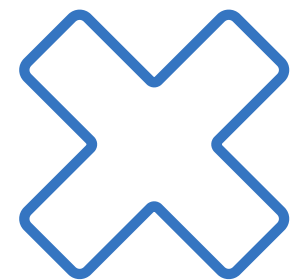


Reconstructive spinal deformity surgery does not require prior authorization. However, Evolent will monitor provider use of CPT codes 22800-22819

MSK Surgery Points: Spine Surgery



ACDF and posterior cervical fusion require authorization for each procedure. These requests can be entered at the same time and will be reviewed concurrently.



Surgeries addressing the following are not included in the MSK program: trauma, amputation, fracture, active infection, pediatric conditions, congenital malformation, palsy/plegia, tumor, cyst, cancer, joint dislocation, hardware and foreign body removal

MSK Surgery Points: All Surgeries



Specialized Orthopedic Surgeons or Neurosurgeons will review surgery requests. Inpatient admissions will continue to be subject to concurrent review by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska.

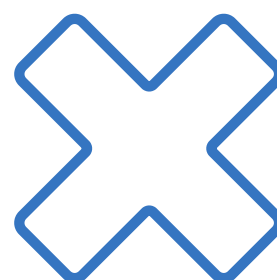


The ordering physician must obtain prior authorization with Evolent prior to performing the surgery/procedure.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska Medicare Advantage or Commercial plans require the facility or hospital admission to be authorized through the health plan separately and only initiated after the service has met Evolent's medical necessity criteria.



Authorizations are valid for 90 days from the date of request. Evolent must be notified of any changes to the date of service which can be completed on RadMD or the Evolent call center.



For Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska Medicare Advantage and Commercial Members, please continue to submit requests to Evolent's portal, [RadMD.com](https://www.radmd.com).

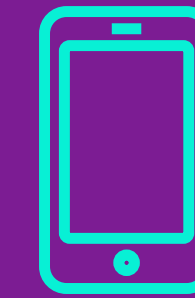
Provider Tools

- Request Authorization
 - View Authorization Status
 - View and manage Authorization Requests with other users
 - Upload Additional Clinical Information
 - View Requests for additional Information and Determination Letters
 - View Clinical Guidelines
 - View Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
 - View Other Educational Documents
-
- Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System for authorization tracking



RadMD.com

Available 24/7



Commercial

1-866-972-9642

Medicare Advantage

1-800-424-4956

Available Monday - Friday

7 AM – 7 PM CST

Evolent Website

[RadMD.com](https://www.radmd.com)

RadMD Functionality varies by user:

- **Ordering Provider's Office**
 - View and submit requests for authorization.
- **Rendering Provider**
 - View approved, pended and in review authorizations for their facility.
 - MSK providers are typically both the ordering and the rendering provider.

Online Tools Available on RadMD

- Evolent's Clinical Guidelines
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Quick Reference Guides
- RadMD Quick Start Guide
- Claims/Utilization Matrices



RadMD New User Application Process - Ordering

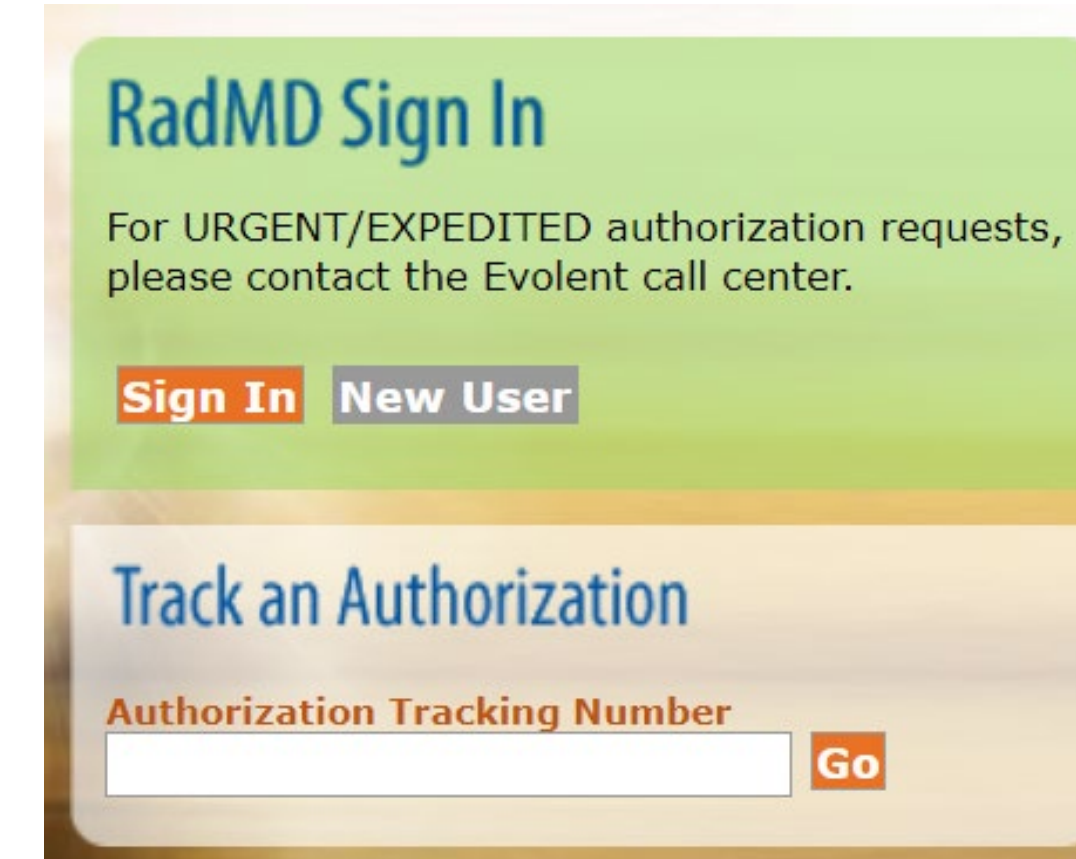
STEPS

1. Click the **“New User”** button on the right side of the home page.
NOTE: On subsequent visits to RadMD, click the “Sign In” button to proceed.
2. Under the Appropriate Description dropdown select **“Physician’s office that orders procedures”**
3. Complete the application and click **“Submit”**.
4. Open email from Evolent webmaster with new user password instructions

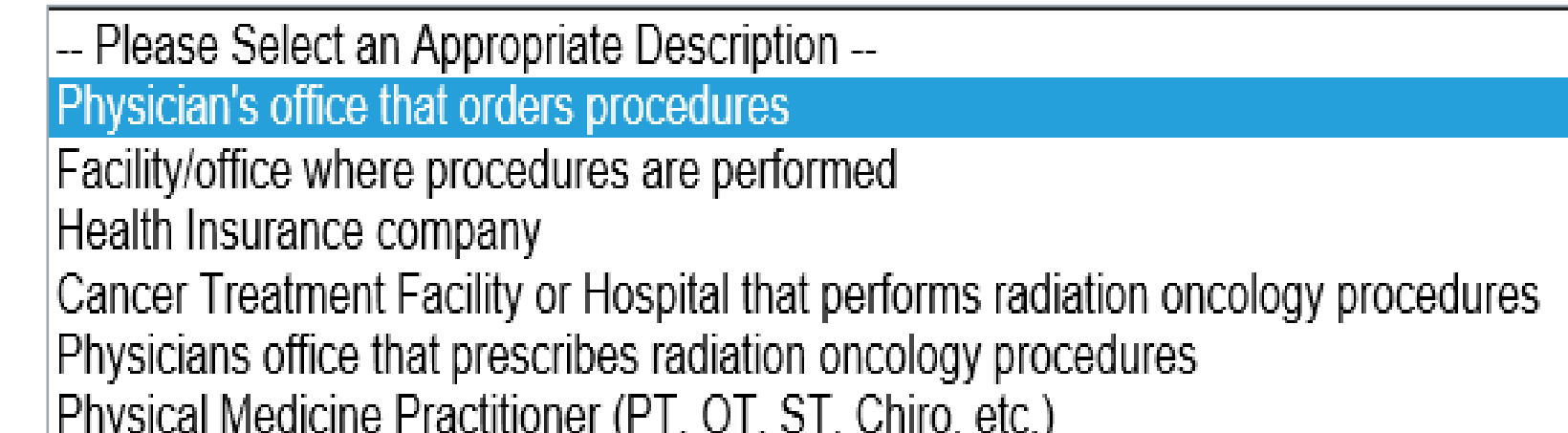
IMPORTANT

- Users are required to have their own separate username and password due to HIPAA regulations.
- Offices that are both ordering and rendering procedures should request ordering provider access. This will allow you to request authorization on RadMD and see the status of requests.

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RadMD New User Application Process - Rendering

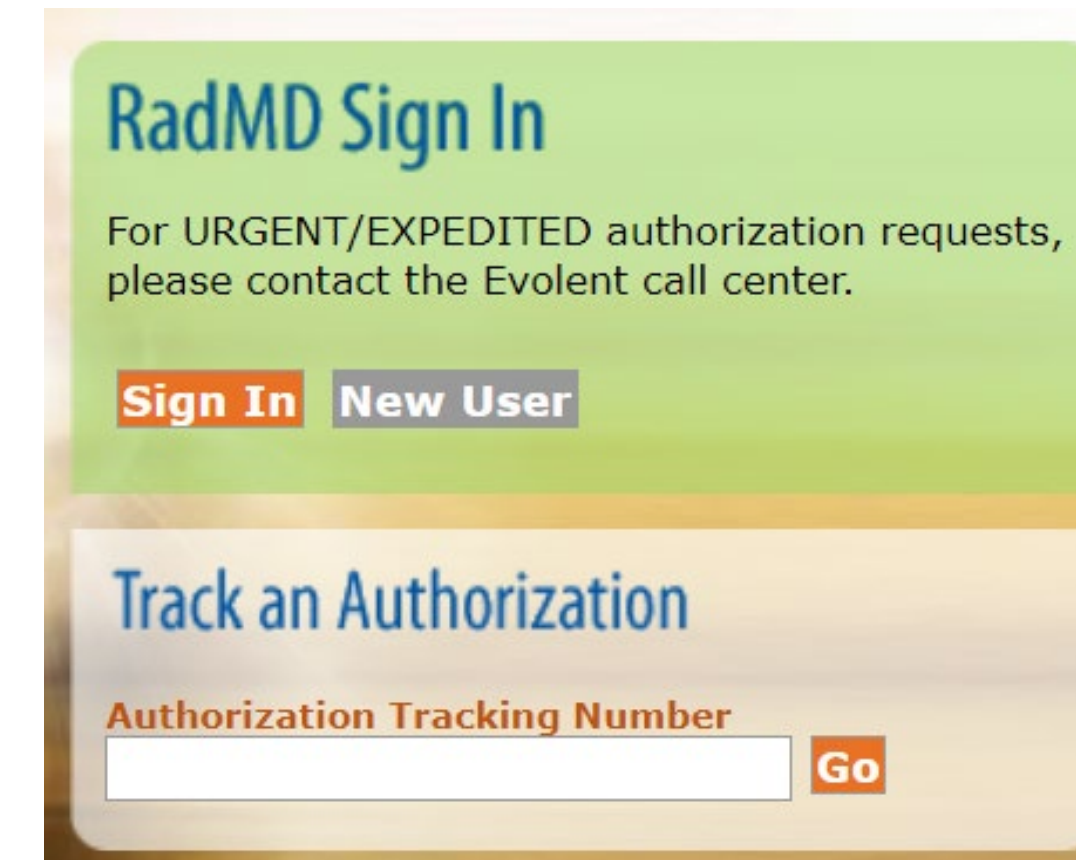
STEPS

1. Click the **“New User”** button on the right side of the home page.
NOTE: On subsequent visits to RadMD, click the “Sign In” button to proceed.
2. Under the Appropriate Description dropdown select **“Facility/office where procedures are performed”**
3. Complete the application and click **“Submit”**.
4. Open email from Evolent webmaster with new user password instructions

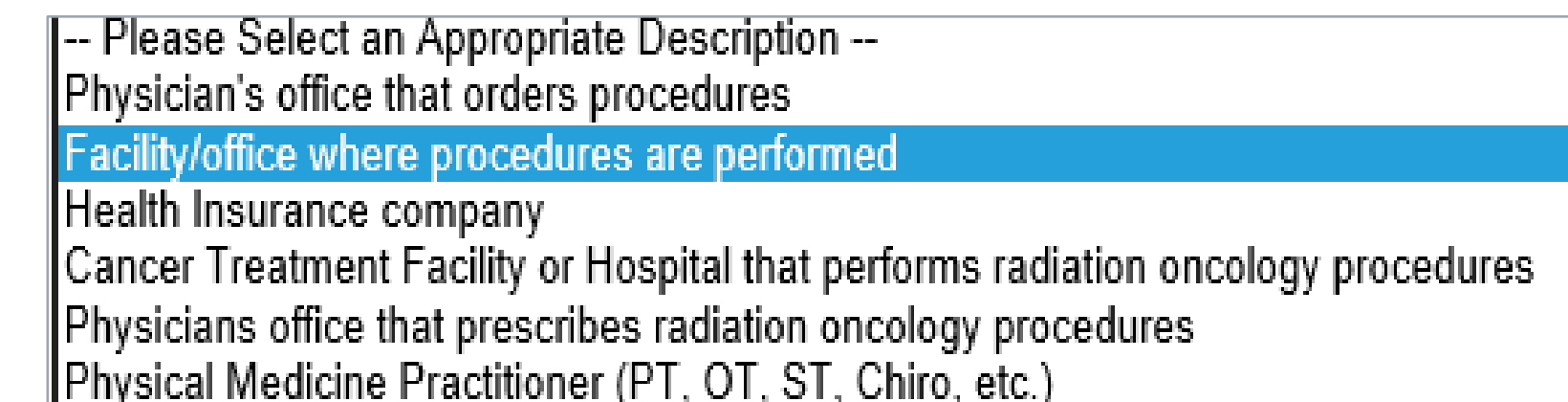
IMPORTANT

- Users are required to have their own separate username and password due to HIPAA regulations.
- Designate an “Administrator” for the facility who manages access for users.
- If multiple staff members entering authorizations need to view approved, pended, and in-review authorization requests, they will each need to complete and submit a new user application. The account administrator is responsible for granting rendering access for each employee.

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Application for a New Account

Please fill out this form only for yourself. Shared accounts are not allowed.

In order for your account to be activated, you must be able to receive emails from RadMDSupport@magellanhealth.com. Please check with your email administrator to ensure that emails from RadMDSupport@magellanhealth.com can be received.

Which of the following best describes your company?
 [What about read-only radiology offices?](#)

New Account User Information		Your Supervisor	
Choose a Username: <input type="text"/>		Unless you are the owner or CEO of your company, the user's name/email must be different than the supervisor's name/email.	
First Name: <input type="text"/>	Last Name: <input type="text"/>	First Name: <input type="text"/>	Last Name: <input type="text"/>
Phone: <input type="text"/>	Fax: <input type="text"/>	Phone: <input type="text"/>	Email: <input type="text"/>
Email: <input type="text"/>	Confirm Email: <input type="text"/>		
Company Name: <input type="text"/>		Job Title: <input type="text"/>	
Address Line 1: <input type="text"/>		Address Line 2: <input type="text"/>	
City: <input type="text"/>	State: <input type="text" value="[State]"/>	Facility Tax ID #: <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Add"/>	
Zip: <input type="text"/>	Your Tax IDs: [none]		

Shared Access

Evolent offers a Shared Access feature on our [RadMD.com](https://www.radmd.com) website. Shared Access allows ordering providers to view authorization requests initiated by other RadMD users within their practice.

If practice staff is unavailable for a period of time, access can be shared with other users in the practice. They will be able to view and manage the authorization requests initiated on [RadMD.com](https://www.radmd.com), allowing them to communicate with members and facilitate treatment.

Request

Exam or specialty procedure

(including Cardiac, Ultrasound, Sleep Assessment)

Physical Medicine

[Initiate a Subsequent Request](#)

Radiation Treatment Plan

Pain Management

or Minimally Invasive Procedure

Spine Surgery or Orthopedic Surgery

Genetic Testing

Resources and Tools

Shared Access

1 share offer requires your attention

Clinical Guidelines

Request access to Tax ID

News and Updates

Hot Topic:

Login As Username:

Request Status

[Search for Request](#)

[View All My Requests](#)

[View Customer Service Calls](#)

Tracking Number:

[Forgot Tracking Number?](#)

When to Contact Evolent

Initiating or checking the status of an authorization request

- Website: [RadMD.com](https://www.RadMD.com)
- Toll-free number: **1-866-972-9642 (Commercial)**
1-800-424-4956 (Medicare Advantage)

Initiating a Peer-to-Peer Consultation

- Toll-free number: **1-866-972-9642 (Commercial)**
1-800-424-4956 (Medicare Advantage)

Provider Service Line

- RadMDSupport@Evolent.com
- Call 1-800-327-0641

Provider Education requests or questions specific to Evolent

Andrew Dietz, DPT
Senior Manger – Provider Solutions
407-967-4636 • Adietz@evolent.com

RadMD Demonstration



THANK YOU!

EVOLENT DOES NOT ALLOW ANY THIRD PARTIES TO USE EVOLENT OR EVOLENT CLIENT DATA FOR ANY PURPOSE OTHER THAN PROVIDING SERVICES ON BEHALF OF EVOLENT OR EVOLENT CLIENTS.

Evolent is an independent company providing MSK and IPM solution programs for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska, an independent licensee of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association.