

TUFTS Health Plan

Sample Prior Authorization Indicators

Overview

NIA publishes guidelines for clinical use of diagnostic imaging examinations on their Web site: www.radmd.com. Tufts Health Plan's Medical Directors have reviewed and approved these guidelines, which NIA has developed based on:

- Practice experiences
- Literature reviews
- Specialty criteria sets
- Empirical data

The document is a PDF file titled *Diagnostic Imaging Guidelines: Getting to YES!* and is located at the following Web address:

http://www.radmd.com/assets/20040820_guidelines.pdf

Please refer to the samples listed below for generalized indicators.

Important information about these indicators

This information includes imaging exam indicators ("Indicators"). Indicators are provided solely to qualified medical professionals and solely for informational purposes. Treatment decisions and other medical decisions should be made only by qualified medical personnel and should not be based, in whole or part, upon the Indicators.

NIA and Tufts Health Plan do not warrant the Indicators or other information as to completeness or accuracy and disclaims all warranties, express or implied, including any warranties of merchantability or fitness for any purpose.

CT examinations of the abdomen

CT examinations of the abdomen are considered appropriate when meeting one or more of the following criteria:

- Suspicious ultrasound
- Abdominal organ enlargement or abnormality
- Persistent clinical suspicion with negative ultrasound
- Known primary or follow-up cancer to rule out metastasis

Note: To evaluate pancreatic pathology, only an abdominal CT (not abdominal and pelvic) is appropriate.

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Sample Prior Authorization Indicators, cont'd.

CT examinations of the female pelvis

CT examinations of the female pelvis are considered appropriate when meeting one or more of the following criteria:

- Suspicious ultrasound
 - Staging of non-ovarian gynecological cancer
 - Persistent clinical suspicion with negative ultrasound
 - Known primary cancer or to rule out metastasis in pelvic organ
 - Uterine/adnexal mass
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MRI examinations of the brain

MRI examinations of the brain are considered appropriate when meeting one or more of the following criteria:

- History of significant head trauma or brain trauma with appropriate clinical findings
 - Suspicion of a brain abscess or an inflammatory disease with neurological symptoms
 - Suspicion of primary or metastatic neoplasm
 - Progressive neurological deficits or worsening of neurological symptoms
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MRI and CT examinations of the spine

MRI and CT examinations of the spine are considered appropriate when meeting one or more of the following criteria:

- History of significant spine injury with appropriate clinical findings
 - Suspicion of spinal abscess or other primary spine infection
 - Radicular symptoms unresponsive to conservative management for six weeks or more (provided the patient is a surgical candidate)
 - Any sign of significant bowel or bladder dysfunction
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MRI examinations of the lumbar spine

MRI examinations of the lumbar spine are considered appropriate when meeting one or more of the following criteria:

- Focal neurological deficit
 - Unilateral leg pain refractory to conservative care
 - Neurogenic claudication
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MRI examinations of the knee

MRI examinations of the knee are considered appropriate when meeting one or more of the following criteria:

- Suspicion of a primary metastatic neoplasm
 - Suspicion of a joint space infection
 - Documented mechanical symptoms; particularly, locking or significant instability
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