

# SPECIAL eBULLETIN

FOR PROFESSIONAL AND FACILITY PROVIDERS

MAY 28, 2021

## AUTHORIZATIONS SOON REQUIRED FOR OUT-OF-AREA AND OUT-OF-NETWORK ADVANCED IMAGING AND CARDIOLOGY SERVICES

**Effective August 1, 2021**, Highmark is expanding its Advanced Imaging and Cardiology Services program (managed by eviCore) to include out-of-area (OOA)<sup>1</sup> and out-of-network (OON)<sup>2</sup> providers/services serving Highmark members enrolled in its fully insured Commercial, Medicare Advantage, Affordable Care Act (ACA) plans, and members of select self-insured (Administrative Services Only) groups.

Highmark's prior authorization requirements ensure that our members receive the most appropriate care delivery in alignment with nationally accepted evidence-based guidelines.

The program includes prior authorization for elective or non-emergency outpatient radiology or cardiac imaging services (Prior authorization does not apply to services that are performed in the emergency room or during an inpatient stay.) Services include:

Radiology	Cardiac Imaging	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)</li><li>• Magnetic resonance angiograms (MRAs)</li><li>• Positron emission tomography (PET) scans</li><li>• Positron emission tomography – computed tomography (PET-CT)</li><li>• Computerized tomography (CT) scans</li><li>• Computed tomography angiography (CTA) scans</li><li>• Nuclear medicine</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cardiac CT</li><li>• Cardiac MRI</li><li>• Diagnostic heart catheterization</li><li>• Myocardial perfusion imaging (SPECT and PET)</li><li>• Nuclear cardiac imaging</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stress echocardiogram</li><li>• Stress testing</li><li>• Transesophageal echocardiogram</li><li>• Transthoracic echocardiogram</li></ul>

**For dates of service on or after August 1, 2021**, OOA prior authorization requests for Advanced Imaging and Cardiology Services should be submitted to eviCore\* via [NaviNet](#). OON authorizations may be requested by calling eviCore at **1-888-564-5492**.

**Prior to July 30, 2021**, do not submit an OOA or OON request to eviCore for Advanced Imaging or Cardiology Services; eviCore will not yet be able to accept these requests. OOA or OON authorization requests for Advanced Imaging and Cardiology Services submitted prior to this date may be inaccurately

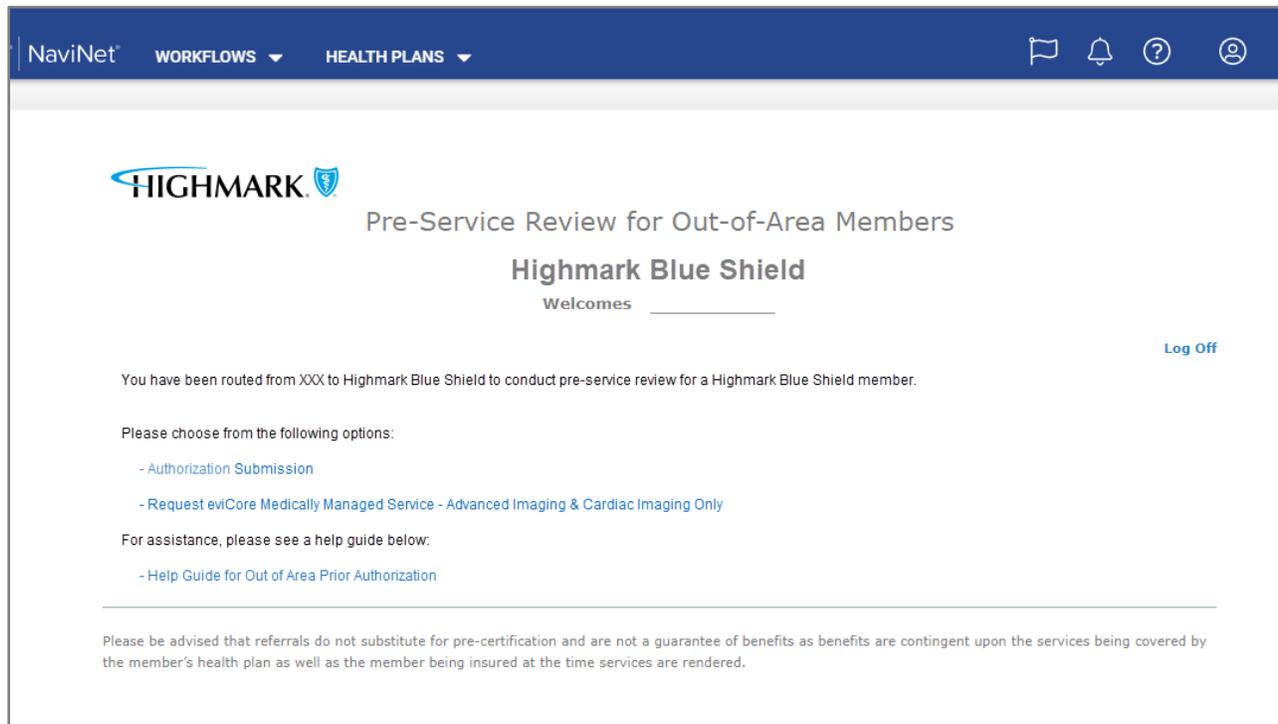


processed as “no authorization is required” and risk a retrospective review after services have been rendered.

## \*SUBMITTING ONLINE OOA AUTHORIZATION REQUESTS

Online submissions are the quickest and most efficient way to request prior authorization.

- Go to [NaviNet](#)
- Choose Authorization Submission from the left-hand navigation
- Choose Pre-Service Review for Out-of-Area Members and you will arrive at the screen below:



Providers may also request authorization by calling eviCore at **1-888-564-5492**. eviCore is available for telephonic case initiation Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. – 7p.m. CST.

To review eviCore’s medical policies and procedure codes, review the [Highmark page](#) on its website.

## INCREASING MEMBER TRANSPARENCY

**Beginning August 1, 2021**, Highmark is also partnering with eviCore to educate members on how the type of facility they receive imaging services at may impact their out-of-pocket costs. Members with authorizations for MRI/CT/PET services may be contacted to discuss alternative locations that may result in lower out-of-pocket costs, depending on the member’s benefits. The goal is for our members to choose the most cost-effective and convenient care for their unique needs.

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<sup>1</sup>OOA services are those performed by a provider outside of the Highmark health plan footprint of Pennsylvania, Delaware, and West Virginia and who is participating with their local Blue Plan.

<sup>2</sup>OON services are those performed by a provider who is not contracted with Highmark or any other blue plan. These services can occur within Highmark’s footprint or OOA.