Musculoskeletal: Interventional Pain Management, Joint & Spine Surgery

Provider Presentation for CareFirst



DISCLAIMER: RECORDED WEBINAR

THIS WEBINAR WILL BE RECORDED AND PUBLISHED ON CAREFIRST'S LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT CENTER. BY REMAINING ON THE CALL, YOU CONSENT TO BEING RECORDED.

IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO BE RECORDED, PLEASE DROP THE CALL AND YOU MAY WATCH THE RECORDED SESSION AT A LATER DATE.



Important Information

- A copy of this presentation will be emailed to all registrants after the webinar.
- Please use the <u>Looking for Support</u> tool for all provider-related requests at <u>carefirst.com/providersupport</u>.

To get started, select the **Get Started** button and answer a few brief questions to be directed to support options specific to your needs.

Note: Provider Relations voicemail and phone numbers will be discontinued by the end of 2025.

- To keep the focus on the content being presented, you may enter your questions in the Q&A function within Zoom.
 - •Questions submitted are not publicly displayed until answered by CareFirst.
 - •You may see your question answered via the Q&A during the webinar.
 - •All questions will be responded to after the webinar via a follow-up email.
 - ■Based on your questions, we may need to reach out to you directly to properly assist.



Agenda:

Solutions Overview

Interventional Pain Management, Joint & Spine Surgery

Submitting Requests

Prior Authorization Outcomes, Special Considerations & Post-Decision Options

EviCore Provider Portal

Overview, Features, and Benefits

Provider Resources

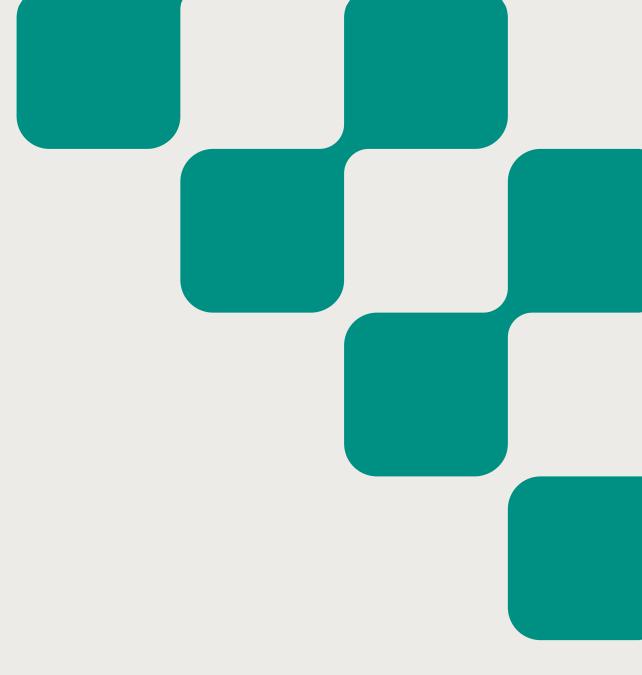
Questions & Next Steps

Appendix

- Portal Case Submission
- Self-Service Peer-to-Peer Scheduling Tool



Solution Overview





10/6/2025

CareFirst Prior Authorization Services

EviCore will begin accepting prior authorization requests for Musculoskeletal: Interventional Pain Management, Joint & Spine Surgery services (outpatient) on October 8, 2025, for dates of service October 22, 2025, and after & Musculoskeletal (Inpatient) for dates of service on or after November 10, 2025.

Applicable Membership

Commercial-Fully Insured on the Facets source system

Access the Prior Authorization Look Up Tool (PAL) training link for assistance

Prior authorization applies to the following services

- Outpatient
- Elective/Non-emergent

Prior authorization does NOT apply to services performed in

- Emergency Rooms
- Observation Services
- Inpatient Stays

Note: EviCore will be authorizing select inpatient procedures for Spine and Joint cases; however, this authorization will apply to the procedure itself, not the inpatient stay.



EviCore
By EVERNORTH

It is the responsibility of the ordering provider to request prior authorization approval for services.

Providers should verify member eligibility and benefits by logging into the CareFirst Provider Portal (CareFirst Direct): Providers & Physicians Home | CareFirst Provider

Interventional Pain Management | Joint & Spine Surgery

Interventional Pain

- Spinal injections
- Spinal implants
 - Spinal cord stimulators
 - Pain pumps

Joint Surgery

- Large joint replacement
 - Arthroscopic and open procedures

Spine Surgery

- Spinal implants
 - Spinal cord stimulators
 - Pain pumps
- Cervical/Lumbar
 - Decompressions
 - Fusions



To find a list of CPT codes that require prior authorization through EviCore, please visit:

https://www.evicore.com/resources/healthplan/carefirst



Submitting Requests

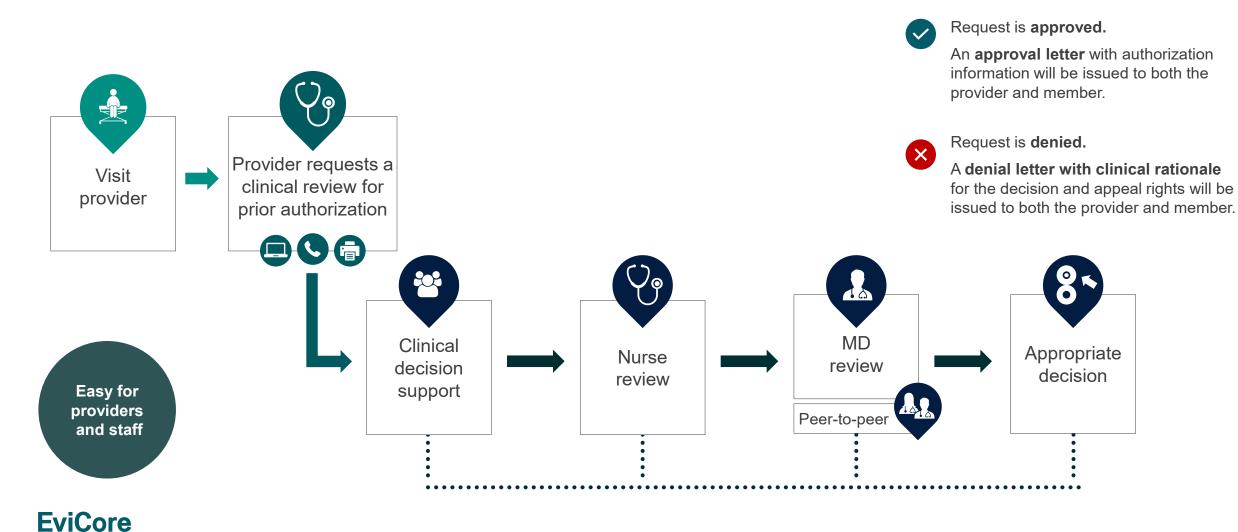




10/6/2025

Utilization Management | Prior Authorization

By EVERNORTH



How to Request Prior Authorization

The EviCore Provider Portal is the easiest, most efficient way to request clinical reviews and check statuses.

You can access the EviCore Provider Portal directly through CareFirst via https://provider.carefirst.com

- Save time: Quicker process than requests by phone or fax.
- Available 24/7.
- Save your progress: If you need to step away, you can save your progress and resume later.
- **Upload additional clinical information**: No need to fax supporting clinical documentation; it can be uploaded on the portal.
- View and print determination information: Check case status in real time.
- Dashboard: View all recently submitted cases.
- **E-notification**: Opt to receive email notifications when there is a change to case status.
- Duplication feature: If you are submitting more than one request,
 you can duplicate information to expedite submissions.



Phone: 844-303-8450

Monday – Friday

7 AM – 7 PM (local time)

Fax: 800.540.2406



Necessary Information for Prior Authorization

To obtain prior authorization on the very first submission, the provider submitting the request will need to gather information within four categories:

Member

- Health Plan ID
- Member name
- Date of birth (DOB)



Referring (Ordering) Provider

- Physician name
- National provider identifier (NPI)
- Phone & fax number

Rendering Facility

- · Facility name
- Address
- National provider identifier (NPI)
- Tax identification number (TIN)
- Phone & fax number

Supporting Clinical

- Pertinent clinical information to substantiate medical necessity for the requested service
- CPT/HCPCS Code(s)
- Diagnosis Code(s)
- Previous test results



Insufficient Clinical | Additional Documentation Needed

If during case build all required pieces of documentation are not received, or are insufficient for EviCore to reach a determination, the following will occur:

A hold letter will be faxed to the requesting provider requesting additional documentation.

The provider must submit the additional information to EviCore.

EviCore will review the additional documentation and reach a determination.

The hold letter will inform the provider about what clinical information is needed, as well as the **date by which it is needed**.

Requested information must be received within the timeframe as specified in the hold letter, or EviCore will render a determination based on the original submission.

Determination notifications will be sent.



Prior Authorization Outcomes, Special Considerations & Post-Decision Options





Prior Authorization Outcomes

Determination Outcomes:

- **Approved Requests:** Authorizations are valid for 60 calendar days from the date of the determination. Authorizations where the Jurisdiction state is DC those authorizations will be valid for 365 calendar days from the date of determination.
- Partially Approved Requests: In instances where multiple CPT codes are requested, some
 may be approved and some denied. In these instances, the determination letter will specify
 what has been approved as well as post decision options for denied codes, including denied
 Site of Care (if applicable).
- **Denied Requests:** Based on evidence-based guidelines, if a request is determined as inappropriate, a notification with the rationale for the decision and post decision/ appeal rights will be issued.

Notifications:

- Authorization letters will be faxed to the ordering provider.
- Web initiated cases will receive e-notifications when a user opts to receive.
- Members will receive a letter by mail.
- Approval information can be printed on demand from the EviCore portal: www.EviCore.com





Special Circumstances

Authorization Update

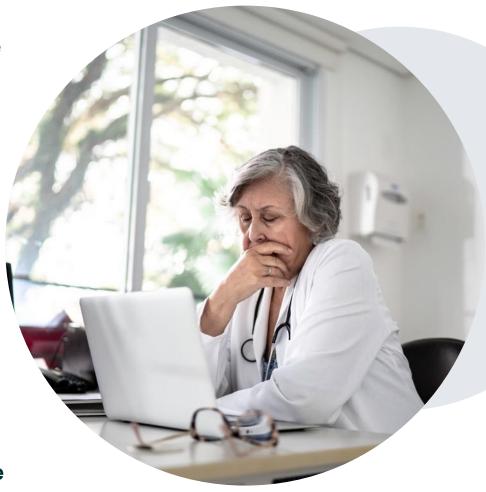
By EVERNORTH

- If updates are needed on an existing authorization, you can contact EviCore by phone 844-303-8450.
- While EviCore needs to know if changes are made to the approved request, any change could result in the need for a separate clinical review and require a new request (and the original approved request would need to be withdrawn).
- If the authorization is not updated, it may result in a claim denial.

Urgent Prior Authorization Requests

- EviCore uses the NCQA/URAC definition of urgent: when a delay in decision-making may seriously jeopardize the life or health of the member
- Can be initiated on provider portal or by phone
- Urgent cases are typically reviewed within 24 to 72 hours

Retrospective requests are not permitted for MSK Pain, and Joint & Spine through EviCore



Post-Decision Options | Commercial/FI Members

My case has been denied. What's next?

Your **determination letter** is the best immediate source of information to assess what options exist on a case that has been denied. You may also call EviCore at **844-303-8450** to speak with an agent who can provide available option(s) and instruction on how to proceed.

Alternatively, select **All Post Decisions** under the **Authorization Lookup** function on **EviCore.com** to see available options.

Reconsiderations

- Providers can request a reconsideration review.
- Reconsiderations must be requested within 14 calendar days after the determination date.
- Reconsiderations can be requested in writing or verbally via a Clinical Consultation with an EviCore physician.



- EviCore will process first-level appeals.
- The timeframe by which appeal requests must be submitted to EviCore varies by line of business. Please refer to the denial letter for instructions.





EviCore Provider Portal



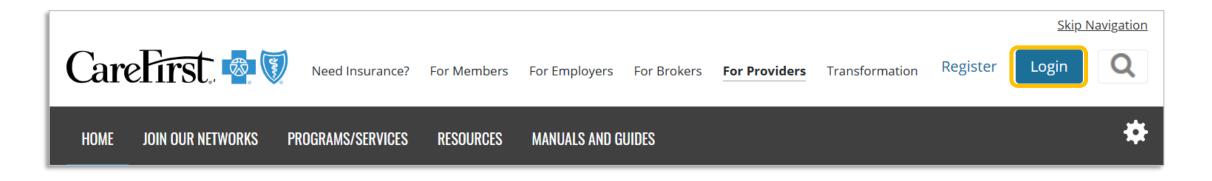


10/6/2025

Single-Sign On (SSO) Experience

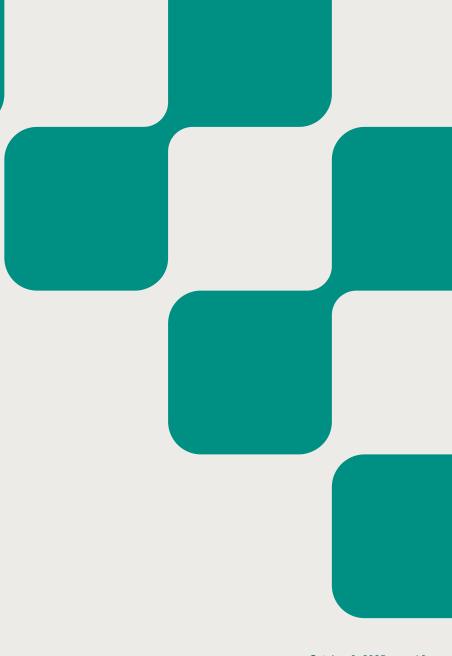
Important information about the procedures included under the Musculoskeletal program

- Go to https://provider.carefirst.com.
- If you need to create an account, select 'Register' and follow the instructions.
- For assistance with registration, utilize this guide, <u>Accessing and Registering for CareFirst</u>
 Direct.





Log into the Provider Portal



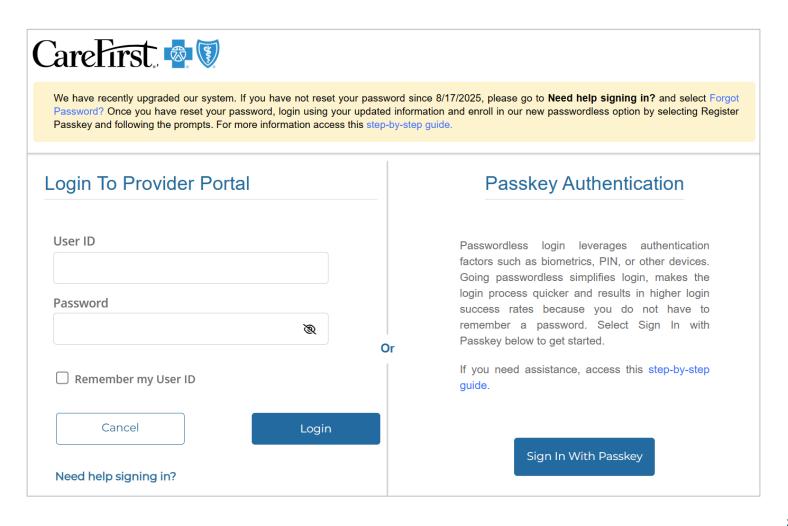


CareFirst Provider Portal

 Enter your User ID and Password to login

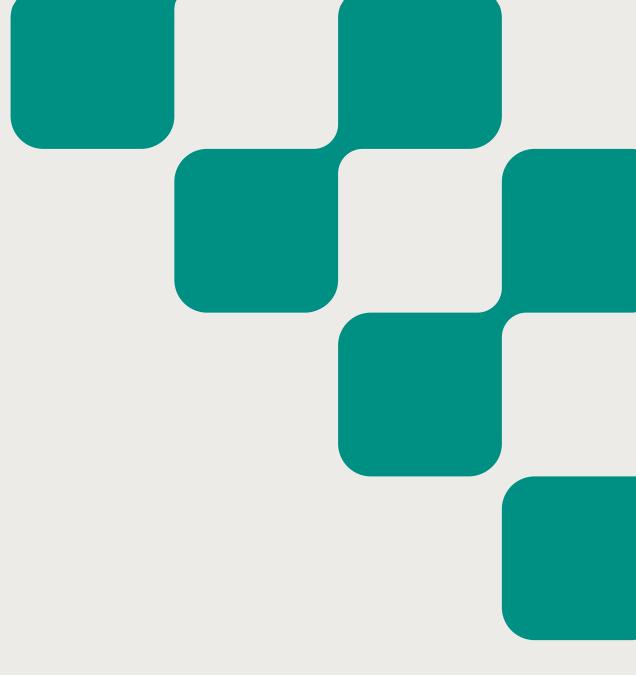
or

Sign in with your Passkey





Access CareFirst's Provider Portal:

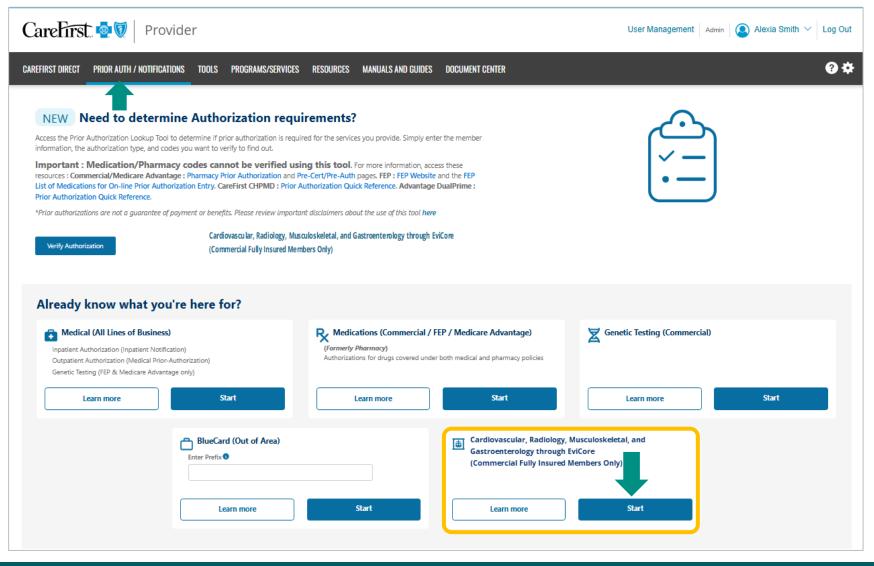




Access CareFirst's Provider Portal

Select the Prior Auth/Notifications tab.

Next, select Start within the box labeled: "Cardiovascular, Radiology, Musculoskeletal, and Gastroenterology through EviCore (Commercial Fully Insured Members Only)" to be transferred to EviCore (CareCore National Portal).



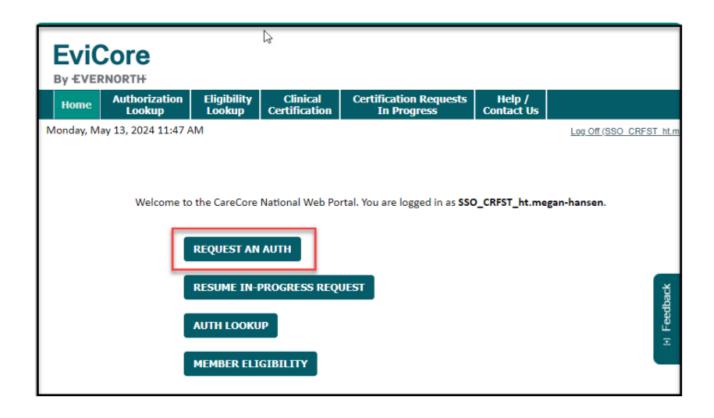


Initiating a Case





Initiating a Case



Select "Request An Auth"

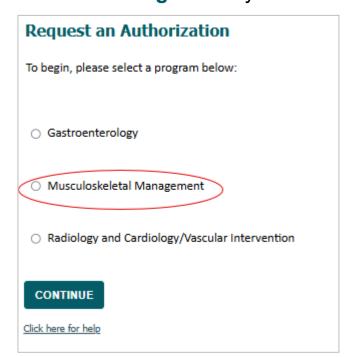


Select Program

Home

Authorization Lookup Eligibility Lookup Clinical Certification Certification Requests In Progress Help / Contact Us

Select the **Program** for your certification.





Clinical Certification Request | Search and Select Provider

EviCore By EVERNORTH											
Home	Authorization Lookup	Eligibility Lookup	Clinical Certification	Certification Re In Progres		Help / Contact Us					
Friday, June	21, 2024 9:14 AM										
Requesting Provider Information											
Search for Provider by TIN, NPI, provider last name, city and/or zip.											
Healthplan:	Healthplan: CAREFIRST BCBS										
TIN:											
NPI:	XXXXXXXXX										
Last Name:		(requires NPI or TIN)									
City:		(city only, no state)									
Zip:											
SEARCH											
Select one of the following providers:											
	Provider		Address		Tax ID	NPI					
SELECT	NAME, PHYSICIAN	123 STREET NAME, CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE			123456789	xxxxxxxxx					

- "Enter the NPI or Tax ID (TIN) for the Requesting/Ordering Provider and select "Search"
- If the provider is located, select the provider by pressing "Select"
- IMPORTANT: Providers who do not participate
 with CareFirst should not access the EviCore
 Portal through the CareFirst Provider Portal.
 Please go to https://www.evicore.com/provider to
 create an account directly with EviCore or call
 844-303-8450 for assistance.



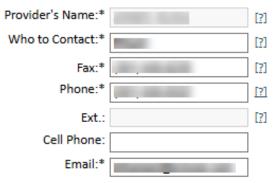
Clinical Certification Request | Enter Contact Information

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Add Your Contact Info



Receive email notification of case status changes

Please review the fax and phone numbers presented for accuracy. Change as necessary and click "Confirm Fax and Continue" to confirm they are correct. Changes apply only to this specific request. If you wish the change to be permanent, please contact the Health Plan.

BACK

CONFIRM FAX AND CONTINUE

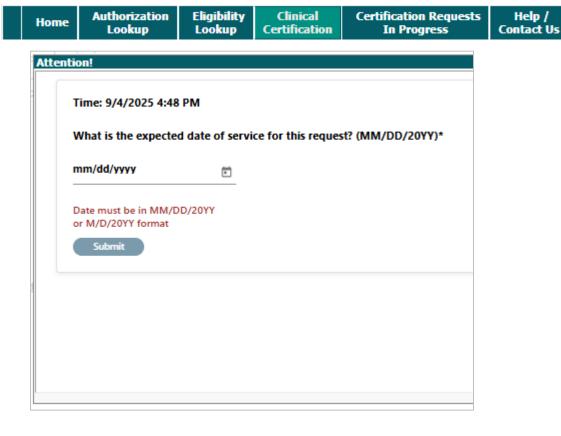
Click here for help



- The e-notification box will be checked by default so that updates for any case status changes are communicated via email. If you prefer to receive notices via fax, make sure to un-check this box.
- Ensure all required fields are complete & accurate, and press "Confirm and Continue".

Clinical Certification Request | Date of Service Verification

Help /



- Enter the expected date of service for the request.
- Click **SUBMIT**.



Clinical Certification Request | Enter Member Information



Patient Eligibility Lookup

Patient ID:*	
Date Of Birth:*	MM/DD/YYYY
Patient Last Name Only:*	[?]

Enter **member information**, including patient ID number, date of birth, and last name then

select "Eligibility Lookup"

 If patient is found, patient information will display. Then select "Select"

When entering patient details, please review and confirm the spelling of the patient's name. Verify accuracy of the patient's ID and date of birth. If the ID number format is: ABC123456789, remove first three alpha characters. Only enter 9 numeric digits.

LOOKUP AGAIN

Search Results

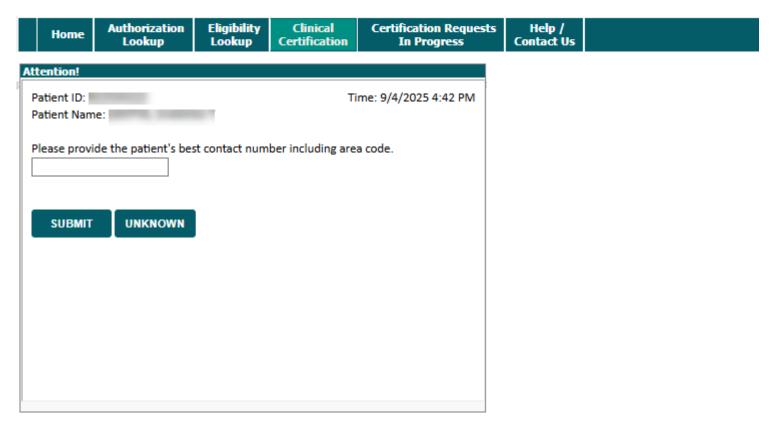
	Patient ID	Member Code	Name	DOB	Gender	Address
SELECT						2000



Click here for help



Clinical Certification Request | Member Info



- Enter the member's phone number.
- Select **Submit**



Clinical Certification Request | Procedure and Diagnosis Codes

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Requested Service + Diagnosis

BACK

Click here for help

Radiology Procedures Select a Primary Procedure by CPT Code[?] or Description[?] Don't see your procedure code or type of service? Click here Additional Procedure codes will be collected/presented during the clinical questionnaire Diagnosis Select a Primary Diagnosis Code (Lookup by Code or Description) LOOKUP Trouble selecting diagnosis code? Please follow these steps Select a Secondary Diagnosis Code (Lookup by Code or Description) Secondary diagnosis is optional for Radiology LOOKUP

- Enter the primary CPT code.
- Add diagnosis code(s):
 - For pain procedures, enter the numeric CPT.
 - For joint surgery, enter JOINT.
 - For spine surgery, enter SPINE.



Clinical Certification Request | Site Selection

Certification Requests Authorization Eligibility Clinical Help / Home Certification Contact Us Lookup In Progress Add Site of Service Specific Site Search Use the fields below to search for specific sites. For best results, search by NPI or TIN. Other search options are by name plus zip or name plus city. You may search a partial site name by entering some portion of the name and we will provide you the site names that most closely match your entry. NPI: Site Name: Zip Code: TIN: City: Exact match Starts with **LOOKUP SITE**

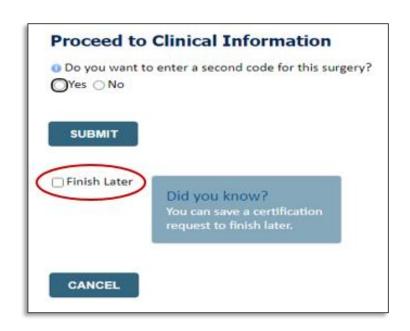
- Search for the **site of service** where the procedure will be performed (for best results, search with NPI, TIN, **or** zip code).
- Select the specific site where the procedure will be performed.

Note: The site on the authorization must match what is on the claim. Not doing so may result in a claim denial.



Clinical Collection Process | Pathway Questions





• Pathway questions will populate based upon the information provided.



Clinical Certification Request | Clinical Certification

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Proceed to Clinical Information

You are about to enter the clinical information collection phase of the authorization process.

Once you have clicked "CONFIRM AND CONTINUE," you will not be able to edit the Provider, Patient, or Service information entered in the previous steps. Please be sure that all this data has been entered correctly before continuing.

In order to ensure prompt attention to your online request, be sure to complete the clinical review before exiting the system. Even if you will be submitting additional information at a later time, please continue through the final summary page. Failure to formally submit your full request will cause the record to expire with no additional correspondence from eviCore.

I acknowledge that the clinical information I am about to submit for this authorization request is accurate and specific to this member, and that all information will be provided for this request.

BACK

CONFIRM AND CONTINUE

- Verify that all information is entered and correct.
- Check the acknowledgement statement.
- You will not have the opportunity to make changes after this point.

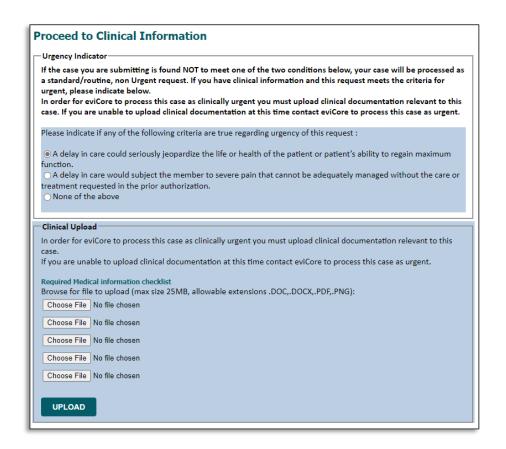


Clinical Certification Request | Standard or Urgent Request?

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- If the case is **standard**, select **Yes**.
- If your request is urgent, select No.
- When a request is submitted as urgent, you will be required to upload relevant clinical information.
- Upload up to FIVE documents.
 (.doc, .docx, or .pdf format; max 5MB size)
- Your case will only be considered urgent if there is a successful upload.



Spine Surgery Pathway



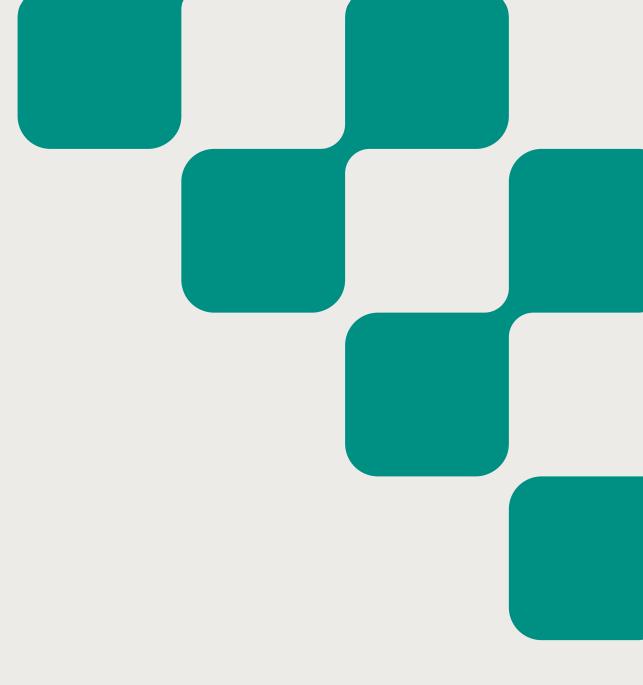


Home Authorization Eligibility Clinical Certification Requests Help / Certification In Progress Contact Us

Proceed to Clinical Information
Please enter the primary CPT code for this surgery.
1 How many units? (Units for an assistant or co-surgeon should NOT be included here. Indicate the assistant / co-surgeon by requesting the appropriate modifier)
1
Which region of the spine will this procedure be performed?
○ Thoracic
○ Cervical
○ Lumbar
Sacral
○ This request is for E0760 and is NOT related to a spinal condition.
SUBMIT

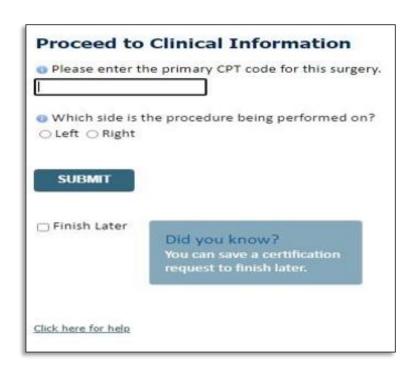


Joint Surgery Pathway









- Enter the primary CPT code for the surgery.
- If needed, you can enter a secondary CPT code.



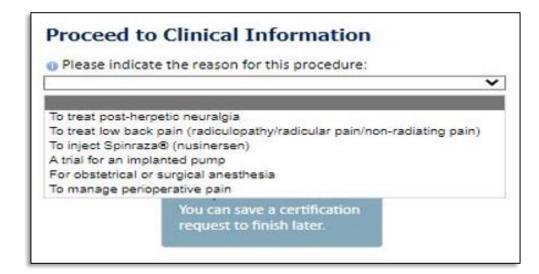


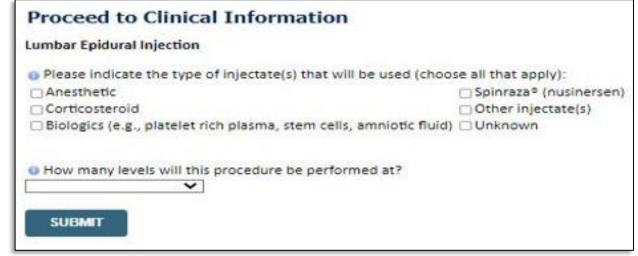
Interventional Pain Pathway



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Home Authorization Eligibility Clinical Certification Requests Help / Contact Us





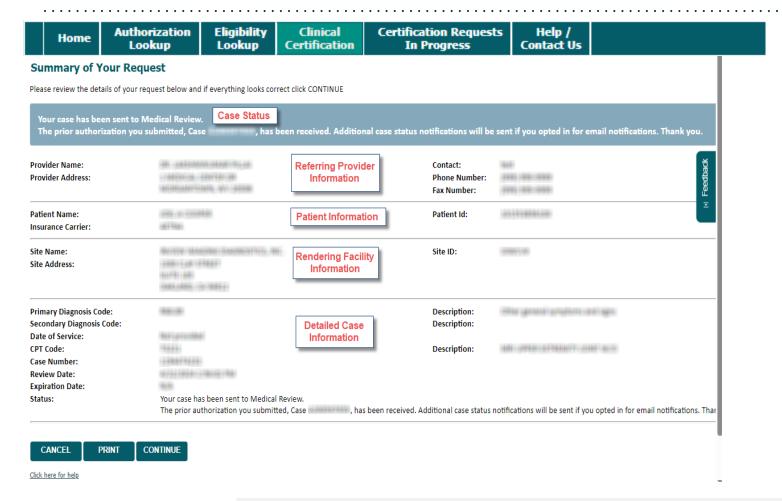
Home

Authorization Lookup Eligibility Lookup Clinical Certification Certification Requests In Progress Help / Contact Us

Proceed to Clinical Information		
Ooes physical exam/patient history indicate any of the following: (Choose all that apply)		
Pain and/or abnormal sensation (numbness, tingling, burning, etc.) that radiates into the arm or leg	 Change in sensation to light touch, pressure, pin prick or temperature 	
Symptomatic spinal stenosis Positive straight leg raise/crossed leg raise test (for lumbar procedures) or Spurling's maneuver (for cervical procedures) Strength	 □ Decreased, absent or asymmetric reflex(es) □ Positive electrodiagnostic study (EMG/NCV) for nerve root compression □ None of the above or unknown 	
Please indicate the documented number of weeks of conservative care prior to this request: (e.g. number of w	eeks of exercise, physical therapy, chiropractic care, NSAIDS, or analgesics	
 Will your patient be participating in an active rehabilitation or therapeutic exercise program following this injection? Yes ○ No ○ Unknown 		
SUBMIT		



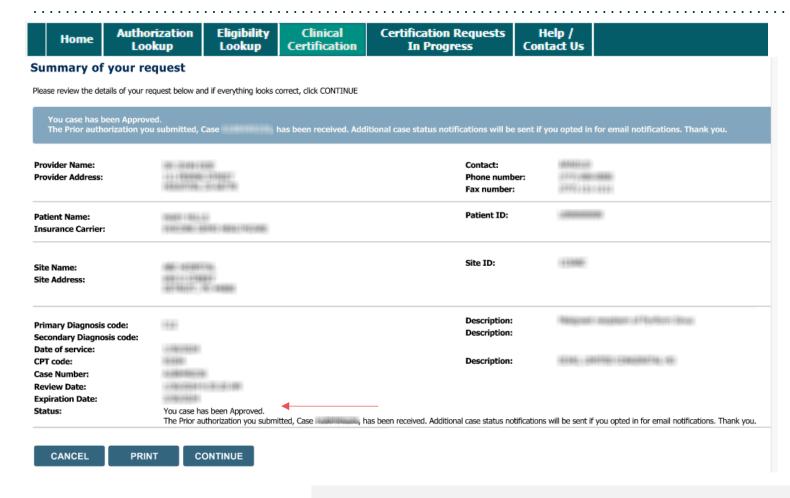
Clinical Certification Request | Criteria NOT Met





If incomplete clinical information was submitted, you will be prompted to return to the request and complete the submission of clinical information. **PRINT the summary of the request** for your records.

Clinical Certification Request | Criteria Met





If your request is authorized during the initial submission, you can **PRINT the** summary of the request for your records.





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Contact EviCore's Dedicated Teams

Client and Provider Services

For eligibility issues (member or provider not found in system) or transactional authorization related issues requiring research.

Email: <u>clientservices@evicore.com</u>

Phone: (800) 646-0418 (option 4).

Web-Based Services and Portal Support

Live chat

Email: <u>portal.support@evicore.com</u>

Phone: 800-646-0418 (option 2).

Provider Engagement

 Regional team that works directly with the provider community.

Tristain Castellanos (NC,VA,MD,DE,DC,VA)

Email: Tristain.ford@evicore.com

Phone: 629-867-0722

Call Center

• Call **888.910.1199**, representatives are available from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. local time





Provider Resources at EviCore.com

EviCore maintains provider resource pages that contain health-planspecific and solution-specific educational material to assist providers and their staff on a daily basis. This page will include:

- Frequently asked questions
- Quick reference guides
- Provider training
- CPT code list

To access these helpful resources, visit:

https://www.evicore.com/resources/healthplan/carefirst

EviCore also maintains online resources <u>not</u> specific to health plans, such as guidelines and our required clinical information checklist.

To access these helpful resources, visit EviCore's **Provider's Hub**.



Ongoing Provider Portal Training

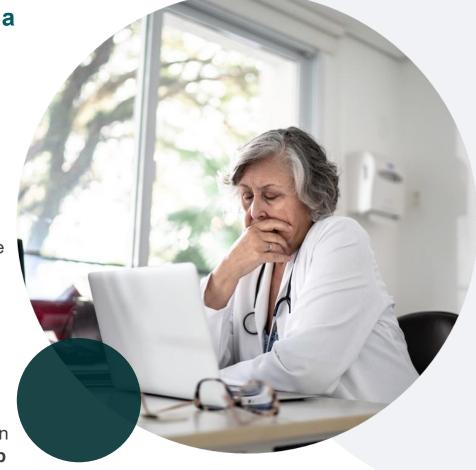
The EviCore Portal Team offers general portal training, twice a week, every week.

All online orientation sessions are free of charge and will last approximately one hour. Advance registration is required, so follow the instructions below to sign up:

How To Register:

- 1. Go to http://EviCore.webex.com/
- 2. Click on the "hamburger" menu on the far left hand side (below the EviCore logo), then choose **Webex Training**.
- 3. On the **Live Sessions** screen, click the **Upcoming** tab. In the search box above the tabs, type: **EviCore Portal Training.**
- 4. Choose the date and time for the session you would like to attend, and click the **Register** link beside it. (You will need to register separately for each session.)
- 5. Complete the required information and click the **Register** button.

Immediately after registering, you will receive an e-mail containing the toll-free phone number, meeting number, conference password, and a link to the web portion of the conference. Please keep the registration e-mail so you will have the Web conference information for the session in which you will be participating.





Provider Resource Review Forum

The EviCore website contains multiple tools and resources to assist providers and their staff during the prior authorization process.

We invite you to attend a **Provider Resource Review Forum** to learn how to navigate **EviCore.com** and understand all the resources available on the Provider's Hub.

Learn how to access:

- EviCore's evidence-based clinical guidelines
- Clinical worksheets
- Existing prior authorization request status information
- Search for contact information
- Podcasts & insights
- Training resources

Register for a Provider Resource Review Forum:

Provider's Hub > Scroll down to EviCore Provider Orientation Session Registrations > Upcoming





EviCore's Provider Newsletter

Stay up to date with our free provider newsletter!

To subscribe:

- Visit <u>EviCore.com</u>.
- Scroll down to the section titled Stay Updated With Our Provider Newsletter.
- Enter a valid email address.





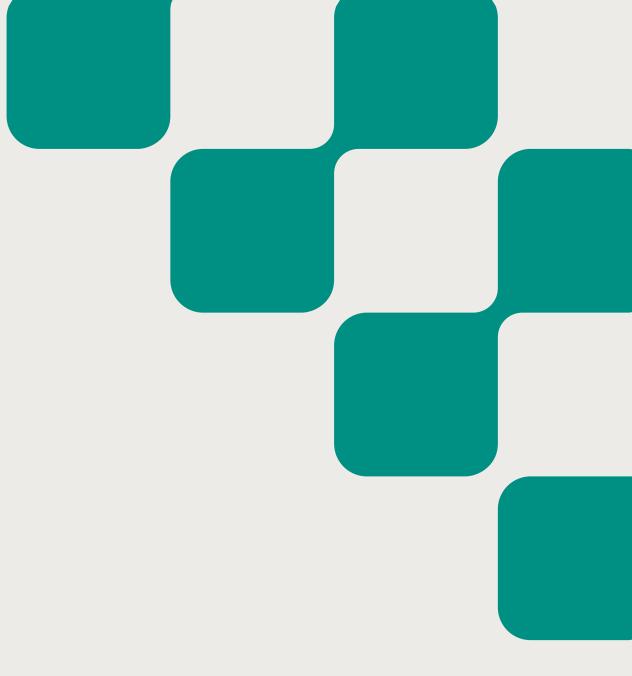
Thank You





10/6/2025

Appendix



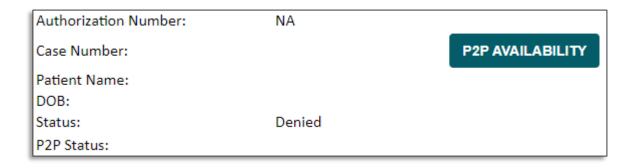


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Online Peer-to-Peer Scheduling Tool



- Log into your account at <u>www.EviCore.com</u>
- Perform Authorization Lookup to determine the status of your request.
- Click on the P2P Availability button to determine if your case is eligible for a Peer-to-Peer conversation:



 If your case is eligible for a Peer-to-Peer conversation, a link will display allowing you to proceed to scheduling without any additional messaging.



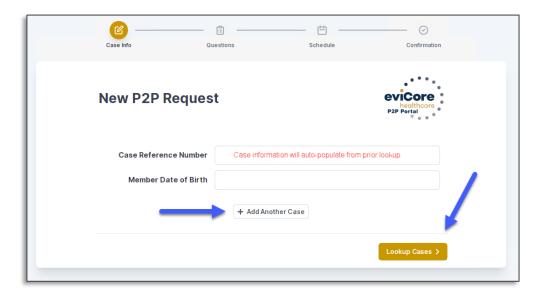


Pay attention to any messaging that displays. In some instances, a Peer-to-Peer conversation is allowed, but the case decision cannot be changed. When this happens, you can still request a Consultative Only Peer-to-Peer. You may also click on the All Post Decision Options button to learn what other action may be taken.



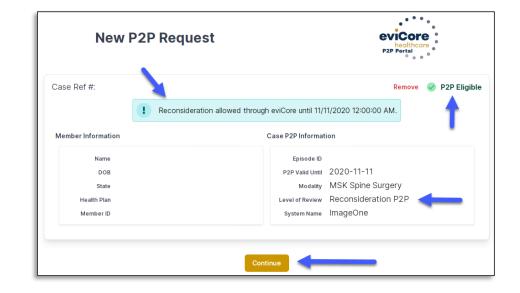
 Once the Request Peer-to-Peer Consultation link is selected, you will be transferred to our scheduling software via a new browser window.



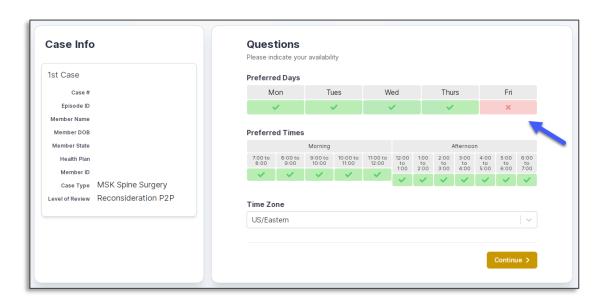


- Upon first login, you will be asked to confirm your default time zone.
- You will be presented with the case number and member date of birth (DOB) for the case you just looked up.
- You can add another case for the same Peer-to-Peer appointment request by selecting Add Another Case.
- To proceed, select Lookup Cases.

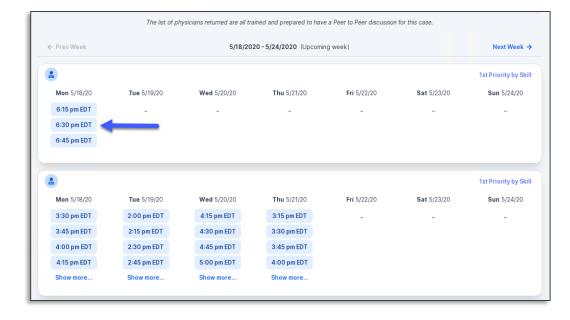
 You will receive a confirmation screen with member and case information, including the Level of Review for the case in question.
 Click Continue to proceed.







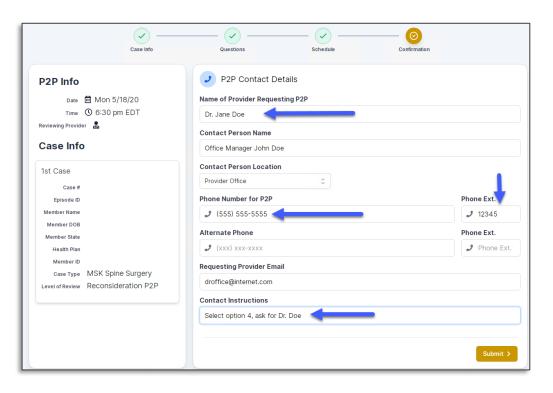
 You will be prompted to identify your preferred days and times for a Peer-to-Peer conversation. All opportunities will automatically present. Click on any green check mark to deselect the option and then click Continue. You will be prompted with a list of EviCore
physicians/reviewers and appointment options per
your availability. Select any of the listed
appointment times to continue.





Confirm Contact Details

 Contact person name and email address will auto-populate per your user credentials.



- Be sure to update the following fields so that we can reach the right person for the Peer-to-Peer appointment:
 - Name of Provider Requesting P2P
 - Phone Number for P2P
 - Contact Instructions
- Click submit to schedule appointment. You will be presented with a summary page containing the details of your scheduled appointment.





Canceling or Rescheduling a Peer-to-Peer Appointment

To cancel or reschedule an appointment:

- Access the scheduling software per the instructions above.
- Go to My P2P Requests on the left pane navigation.
- Select the request you would like to modify from the list of available appointments.
- Once opened, click on the schedule link; an appointment window will open.
- Click on the Actions drop-down and choose the appropriate action.
 - If choosing to reschedule, you will have the opportunity to select a new date or time as you did initially.
 - If choosing to cancel, you will be prompted to enter a cancellation reason.
- Close browser once done.

