



Insurance Pre-Authorization Update #2 - November 2012

New AIM Clinical Guidelines Effective November 1st

Radia has recently been made aware that American Imaging Management (AIM) has published updates to their clinical guidelines which are in effect as of November 1st. Below is the official statement by AIM addressing these changes:

“AIM Specialty HealthSM (AIM) is pleased to announce that it has completed its 2012 Clinical Guideline Review Process and has implemented several enhancements based on the latest evidence-based guidelines to help ensure that patients receive the most appropriate care.

Beginning November 1, 2012, the following changes will take effect:

In support of AIM's long-standing guideline on the appropriateness of simultaneous ordering of multiple imaging tests, clinical information to support the medical necessity of these multiple studies may be requested in select circumstances. In these cases, providers may be asked to provide additional information via written medical records or a peer to peer discussion with an AIM medical director.

Additional changes effective November 1, 2012:

- **CT/MRI of the Spine:** *Based on recommendations by medical societies regarding early imaging in non-specific low back pain, AIM has enhanced its guidelines to clarify and narrow the scope of non-specific back pain requests at the intake level.*
- **CT/MRI of the Brain:** *AIM has also refined its guidelines for the diagnoses of headache and syncope to minimize requests for CT/MRI of the brain for patients without specific risk factors for structural disease.*
- **CTA of the Chest:** *Reporting on provider ordering patterns indicates that there is an opportunity to more closely examine imaging requests for pulmonary embolism (PE). Guideline language has been strengthened to reinforce that imaging studies are most appropriate in cases where PE is strongly suspected.*
- **MPI/Stress Echo:** *Consensus recommendations indicate a shift towards more conservative periods of surveillance imaging for coronary artery disease in stable or asymptomatic patients.*

These guidelines also align with several of the recommendations outlined by nine leading national medical organizations as part of the Choosing Wisely campaign.”

Radia accepts the following insurance plans managed by AIM and affected by the new guidelines: Lifewise, Premera, Providence Health, and Regence.