



Physicians Committed
to Quality

monthly memo mvma ipa

An important announcement from Richard B. Toll, M.D., MVMA President

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Radiology Update

Many of you will recall that MVMA had a radiology arrangement in place with New York Medical Imaging (NYMI) until March 1, 2001. From that point forward, MVP has managed our medical imaging program in-house. Data supported our decision to require precertification or at a minimum a prior authorization number for certain procedures. We are continuing to monitor utilization and have met with several practices to review ordering patterns as the cost of imaging services does vary depending on where the test is performed.

MVP Health Care has implemented a radiology management program in two other IPA regions through an outside company, National Imaging Associates (NIA). MVP has asked MVMA to consider this also. As we evaluate the feedback from the other IPAs, we also welcome your comments. It is our understanding that many of our physicians may interact with NIA through participation in other plans that utilize this company. If you have comments or concerns you would like to share with us, please contact Debbie Zadrozny, Director of Operations at (518) 388-2690.

Certification requirements were communicated to IPA physicians during the NYMI arrangement, and have not changed. We are in the process of updating our information and your files to ensure the appropriate certification is in place for your imaging claims to continue to be reimbursed. A separate mailing with specific details will be sent to all obstetricians, gynecologists, reproductive endocrinologists and GYN oncologists as a starting point, requesting a copy of the current ACR or AIUM certificate that is required for ultrasounds and mammograms to be performed and continue to be reimbursed.

Please note that DEXA scan reimbursement will be considered in offices and facilities with certification by the International Society of Clinical Densitometry (ISCD). A copy of the certificate must be on file for reimbursement to occur.

We are seeing a trend of increasing utilization of in-office imaging equipment. New technology or equipment added to an office (such as MRI or DEXA) will require approval before reimbursement will be considered.

