

Private Payer Policies for Echocardiography - Updated

ASE is aware that the following health plans have established policies tying reimbursement to prior authorization and/or accreditation. This is a limited list. ASE recommends checking payer policies, payer newsletters, and bulletins to identify if other payers have announced policies not listed here.

Status Update: July 2013

Payer	Prior Authorization Status	Accreditation
Aetna	<p>Prior authorization required for Stress echo (<a href="#">see expanded state list and rules</a>)</p> <p><a href="http://www.aetna.com/healthcare-professionals/policies-guidelines/precertification_policy_multi_reponse.html?textfield1=93350&amp;textfield2=93351&amp;textfield3=&amp;textfield4=&amp;textfield5=&amp;x=36&amp;y=15">http://www.aetna.com/healthcare-professionals/policies-guidelines/precertification_policy_multi_reponse.html?textfield1=93350&amp;textfield2=93351&amp;textfield3=&amp;textfield4=&amp;textfield5=&amp;x=36&amp;y=15</a></p>	<p><u>Accreditation for Echocardiography is no longer required.</u></p> <p>See June 2011 Bulletin</p> <p><a href="http://www.aetna.com/healthcare-professionals/news/regional_hcp_newsletters.html">http://www.aetna.com/healthcare-professionals/news/regional_hcp_newsletters.html</a></p>
American Imaging Management (AIM Specialty Health)	<p>AIM manages utilization of diagnostic imaging testing for many health plans. Prior authorization and accreditation requirements vary among their contracted health plans</p> <p><a href="http://www.americanimaging.net/index">http://www.americanimaging.net/index</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.americanimaging.net/marketing/goweb/index.html">http://www.americanimaging.net/marketing/goweb/index.html</a></p>	Check with health plans
Anthem BCBS	<p>For those members whose benefits require prior authorization, effective for dates of service on or after September 1, 2010, prior authorization will be required for stress echocardiography (SE), transesophageal echocardiography (TEE), and resting transthoracic echocardiography (TTE). Prior authorizations will be required for the same members as currently required for advanced diagnostic imaging services. Servicing providers' claims will adjudicate based on the results of the prior authorization review. For members whose benefits do not require prior authorization of these services, pre-notification will continue as a consultation management program requirement. Plans Requiring Prior Authorization: EHH, NHH, NHP, YGA, YGC, YGF, YGG, YGX</p> <p><a href="http://www.anthem.com/provider/nh/f5/s2/t0/pw_ad087257.pdf">http://www.anthem.com/provider/nh/f5/s2/t0/pw_ad087257.pdf</a></p>	No known policy
BCBS North Carolina	<p>Prior approval required for TTE, TEE, and stress echo.</p> <p><a href="http://www.bcbsnc.com/content/providers/news-and-information/news/nov4-2011.htm">http://www.bcbsnc.com/content/providers/news-and-information/news/nov4-2011.htm</a></p>	No known policy

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Blue Cross Blue Shield Georgia	Precertification required for echocardiography <a href="http://www.bcbsga.com/provider/noapplication/providerservices/downloadforms/notertiary/pw_b150666.pdf?refer=chpproviderbcbsga">http://www.bcbsga.com/provider/noapplication/providerservices/downloadforms/notertiary/pw_b150666.pdf?refer=chpproviderbcbsga</a>	No known policy
Bravo Health (New)	Prior Authorization – Stress Echo	No known policy
CareCore	CareCore is a specialty benefits management company that manages utilization of diagnostic imaging testing for many health plans. Authorization is required for Echocardiography for their contracted health plans.	For providers requesting participation in CareCore National's Diagnostic Imaging Network, or for those currently participating providers wishing to remain as participating providers, Minimum Equipment Standards and accreditation are required (posted February 12, 2012)  <a href="http://www.carecorenational.com/content/pdf/CC/C5970F46EF8E4E2FBA7508D5D99E3576.pdf">http://www.carecorenational.com/content/pdf/CC/C5970F46EF8E4E2FBA7508D5D99E3576.pdf</a>
Coventry Health Care (West Virginia and Virginia)	Prior authorization required for echocardiography and stress echo  <a href="http://chcvirginia.coventryhealthcare.com/web/groups/public/@cvtv_regional_chcva/documents/webcontent/c045839.pdf">http://chcvirginia.coventryhealthcare.com/web/groups/public/@cvtv_regional_chcva/documents/webcontent/c045839.pdf</a>	No known policy
Emblem Health	Prior authorization for TTE, stress echo is required	Privileging program: All practitioners must be appropriately licensed under applicable law, the American College of Radiology (ACR) or Intersocietal Commission on Accreditation of Nuclear Laboratories (ICANL) standards, and/or Emblem Health's Physician or Technician Forms. All equipment utilized by the practitioner must be appropriately certified. <a href="http://www.emblemhealth.com/pdf/EH_Provider_Manual.pdf">http://www.emblemhealth.com/pdf/EH_Provider_Manual.pdf</a>

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Empire BCBS	<p>Effective for dates of service on or after March 6, 2012, Empire will <b>require</b> its participating providers to obtain prior authorization from AIM® for stress echocardiography (SE), transesophageal echocardiography (TEE), and resting transthoracic echocardiography (TTE). This prior authorization requirement is applicable only for those members whose benefits currently require prior authorization for high-tech diagnostic imaging services.</p> <p><a href="https://www.empireblue.com/provider/noapplication/f4/s8/t4/pw_e180755.pdf?refer=ehpprovider">https://www.empireblue.com/provider/noapplication/f4/s8/t4/pw_e180755.pdf?refer=ehpprovider</a></p>	No known policy
Health First (New)	Echocardiograms - Authorized by AIM Specialty Health.(Fetal echos do not require prior authorization)	No known policy
Highmark West Virginia (New)	Prior Notification for Stress echo	No known policy
Horizon BCBS NJ	Prior authorization required for TTE and stress echo	<p>All sites desiring to perform transthoracic and stress echocardiography will require ICAEL accreditation. Sites supervised by a board certified cardiologist must meet this requirement by January 1, 2011. The performance and interpretation of these studies will be limited to providers who are board certified in cardiology by the American Board of Internal Medicine (AIBM), American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) or providers certified by the National Board of Echocardiography (NBE) for TTE and/or stress echocardiography. Any echocardiography procedures performed at sites not accredited by ICAEL and/or by providers who are not AIBM certified in cardiology or NBE certified may not be reimbursed regardless of the medical necessity of the procedure.</p> <p><a href="http://www.carecorenational.com/resources/horizon-echocardiography-privileging-program.aspx">http://www.carecorenational.com/resources/horizon-echocardiography-privileging-program.aspx</a></p>

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Humana (New)	Humana requires preauthorization requests for outpatient TTE <a href="https://www.humana.com/provider/medical-providers/education/claims/outpatient-procedures">https://www.humana.com/provider/medical-providers/education/claims/outpatient-procedures</a>	No known policy
Mountain State BCBS	Prior notification for Stress echo <a href="https://www.highmarkbcbswv.com/PDFFiles/nia/NIA-Stress-Echo-Bulletin.pdf">https://www.highmarkbcbswv.com/PDFFiles/nia/NIA-Stress-Echo-Bulletin.pdf</a>	No known policy
National Imaging Associates, Inc. (NIA)	National Imaging Associates, Inc. (NIA) is a company that manages utilization of diagnostic imaging testing for many health plans. Authorization and accreditation requirements vary among their contracted health plans. <a href="http://www1.radmd.com/health-plans.aspx">http://www1.radmd.com/health-plans.aspx</a>	Check with health plans
Regence (new)	Ordering/referring non-radiological physicians, other health care professionals and/or their trained staff <b>must</b> contact AIM to obtain an order number <b>before</b> scheduling an elective outpatient diagnostic imaging procedure for all Regence members residing in Idaho, Oregon, Utah and Washington: Stress echocardiography (SE) / Resting transthoracic echocardiography (TTE) / Transesophageal echocardiography (TEE) <a href="https://www.regence.com/wareg/library/">https://www.regence.com/wareg/library/</a>	No known policy
United Healthcare	Prior Authorization requirements apply to <b>UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage</b> members in states in which the Cardiology Notification Program is effective: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa (except Western Iowa), Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington DC, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming Echocardiogram • CPT Codes: 93303, 93304, 93306, 93307, 93308 Stress Echo • CPT Codes: 93350, 93351 <a href="https://www.unitedhealthcareonline.com/ccmcontent/ProviderII/UHC/en-US/Assets/ProviderStaticFiles/ProviderStaticFilesPdf/News/Important_Changes_In_Notification_PriorAuthorization.PDF">https://www.unitedhealthcareonline.com/ccmcontent/ProviderII/UHC/en-US/Assets/ProviderStaticFiles/ProviderStaticFilesPdf/News/Important_Changes_In_Notification_PriorAuthorization.PDF</a>	Accreditation is required for the following procedures: CT scan, MRI, Nuclear Medicine/cardiology, PET scan and Echocardiography. <a href="https://www.unitedhealthcareonline.com/ccmcontent/ProviderII/UHC/en-US/Assets/ProviderStaticFiles/ProviderStaticFilesPdf/Tools%20and%20Resources/2011_UHC_Administrative_Guide.pdf">https://www.unitedhealthcareonline.com/ccmcontent/ProviderII/UHC/en-US/Assets/ProviderStaticFiles/ProviderStaticFilesPdf/Tools%20and%20Resources/2011_UHC_Administrative_Guide.pdf</a>
Wellmark	Administered by American Imaging Management (AIM) for Wellmark BCBS plans Prior authorization for stress echo <a href="http://www.wellmark.com/Provider/MedPoliciesAndAuthorizations/Authorizations.aspx">http://www.wellmark.com/Provider/MedPoliciesAndAuthorizations/Authorizations.aspx</a>	No known policy