

Quick Reference Guide for Advanced Imaging Authorizations

To obtain authorization for advanced imaging (CT/MRI) of the spine, you typically need to provide the following information:

1. Reason for advanced imaging
2. Onset of symptoms and description of symptoms
3. Types of conservative therapy and/or treatment* prescribed and completed by the patient
 - a. Duration of clinician directed treatment
4. Has there been improvement or worsening of symptoms?
5. Most recent physical examination findings
 - a. Location and description of symptoms
 - b. Presence of any neurologic deficits
6. Patients medical, surgical, and social history
7. What other imaging/testing has been performed within the past 6 months?
 - a. X-ray
 - b. CT
 - c. EMG

*Conservative therapy and/or treatment for spine should include a multimodality approach consisting of a combination of active and inactive components. Inactive components, such as rest, ice, heat, modified activities, medical devices, acupuncture and/or stimulators, medications, injections (epidural, facet, bursal, and/or joint, not including trigger point), and diathermy can be utilized. Active modalities may consist of physical therapy, a physician supervised home exercise program and/or osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMT) or chiropractic care.

Disclaimer: *This list is not all inclusive and prior authorization requirements are subject to change at the discretion of the insurance company and/or the administrator for the plan. Ordering clinicians should always contact the patients' insurance plan directly for current prior authorization requirements.*