

New IDEAS and Medicare Advantage Plans

Frequently Asked Questions

Are patients with Medicare Advantage insurance plans eligible for New IDEAS?

Yes. Patients with Medicare Advantage plans (Part C or MA plans) AND patients with traditional Medicare (Part B) are eligible to participate in New IDEAS if the insurance plan is the patient's primary insurance. Patients may also have Medi-Gap plans that would generally be secondary to pick up co-payments or deductibles.

How do I know if a patient's insurance plan is a Medicare Advantage plan?

A quick internet search of the patient's plan name will often reveal whether it is a Medicare Advantage plan. If you are unsure, please contact the New IDEAS Operations Team at newideas@acr.org, and we can help you confirm the insurance type.

If a patient's insurance requires prior authorization for the amyloid PET scan, is prior authorization required before the patient receives their amyloid PET scan?

Yes. If a patient's insurance requires prior authorization for the amyloid PET scan, it must be obtained prior to the scan taking place like other clinical procedures that require insurance prior authorization.

What should I do if the imaging facility that I refer patients to is not scanning patients with Medicare Advantage plans?

Please contact the New IDEAS Operations Team at newideas@acr.org with the name of the imaging facility, insurance plan name, and case ID number to identify a solution.

How do I submit a prior authorization for a Medicare Advantage plan?

Each plan has different criteria and a unique process for obtaining prior authorization. The practice team should consult the plan's guidance on the plan's website or contact the insurance company for assistance. Practices are encouraged to review the [Tips to Help Physicians Reduce the Prior Authorization Burden in Their Practice](#) guidance from the American Medical Association prior to completing the prior authorization process.

What should I do if my practice or my imaging facility is having trouble obtaining prior authorization for a patient with a Medicare Advantage plan?

Please submit the [Medicare Advantage Cover Letter Template](#) along with the appeal to the insurance company. You can contact the New IDEAS Operations Team at newideas@acr.org with the name of the imaging facility, insurance plan name, and case ID number for further investigation and assistance.

Where can my imaging facility find sample claim submission forms to ensure they are receiving reimbursement for the New IDEAS amyloid PET scan?

Facilities should use the [New IDEAS Sample Claim Forms](#). Facilities who receive insurance denials for reimbursement should complete and send the [Amyloid PET scan Denial Appeal Letter Template](#) to the insurance company along with their insurance appeal information.

What should I do if my site stopped recruiting patients with Medicare Advantage plans for New IDEAS due to prior authorization or reimbursement issues?

Please contact the New IDEAS Operations Team at newideas@acr.org if your site is experiencing recruitment or retention problems because of Medicare Advantage plan prior authorization and/or reimbursement issues. The New IDEAS Operations Team can help sites assess, diagnose, and develop an intervention with the insurance plan or facility for continued enrollment success in New IDEAS. The New IDEAS Study Team is committed to helping sites eliminate any modifiable structural barriers in the way of care to ensure equal and non-discriminatory access to participation in the Study.