

DATE: January 7, 2026

TO: Utilization Management Department / Radiology Benefits Manager

FROM: Clinic Coordinator, Metro-City Sports Medicine

RE: Urgent Prior Authorization Request for MRI Left Knee

PATIENT: Darshan

DOB: MEMBER ID: ICD-10 CODES: S83.92XA, M25.562, F41.9

CPT CODE: 73721 (MRI Lower Extremity Joint w/o Contrast)

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to formally request **immediate authorization** for a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) study of the left knee for our patient, Vignesh.

Clinical History: The patient is a 28-year-old male who presents with left knee pain following a soccer injury sustained exactly one week ago (7 days). The mechanism of injury involved planting the left foot and twisting the knee while turning. Since the injury, the patient has been managing the condition at home with ice application ("icing") and rest. He has not utilized crutches.

Justification for MRI (Medical Necessity): The primary indication for this request is the patient's significant **psychological distress and anxiety** (ICD-10 F41.9) regarding the potential nature of his injury. The patient reports an inability to focus on work or daily activities due to excessive worry that he may have sustained severe ligamentous damage (e.g., ACL tear). He is insisting on immediate imaging to provide "peace of mind" and definitive answers.

Deviation from Standard Protocol: Please note that we are **knowingly bypassing standard step-therapy protocols** for this request due to the patient's emotional state:

1. **No X-rays** have been performed. The patient declined radiographs, and we agreed to proceed directly to MRI request to expedite the diagnosis he is seeking.
2. **No Physical Therapy** has been prescribed or attempted. The patient has only utilized home icing for 7 days. We believe forcing the patient to wait 4-6 weeks for a trial of therapy would exacerbate his anxiety and is therefore contraindicated in this specific psychosocial context.

We request that you consider the "whole patient" and authorize this scan to resolve his mental anguish regarding the injury.

Sincerely,

Clinic Coordinator Metro-City Sports Medicine