

## Payment Policy | Emergency Room Radiology/Imaging Interpretation Services



**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 3|01|2018

**POLICY LAST REVIEWED:** 03|06|2024

### OVERVIEW

This Blue Cross & Blue Shield of RI (BCBSRI) policy describes correct billing for radiology services completed in the hospital emergency room.

### MEDICAL CRITERIA

Not applicable.

### PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Not applicable.

### POLICY STATEMENT

#### Medicare Advantage Plans and Commercial Products

Generally, BCBSRI will only reimburse the first provider who completes and files the comprehensive review and interpretation of radiology service performed in the emergency room.

BCBSRI follows CPT coding guidelines, which states the emergency room physician should not bill a preliminary review (a.k.a. wet read) separately as the initial review is included in the E&M service billable by the ER physician. The rendering of comprehensive review and interpretation of the radiology service completed in the emergency room, should in most instances conducted and billed by a board-certified radiologist.

Generally, billing the review and interpretation for the same patient on the same date of service by two providers will deny as a duplicate service. However, emergency room doctors are permitted to bill for this service when a full comprehensive review and written interpretation is included and is a separate record within the patient's medical record. BCBSRI will pay for this second interpretation (identifiable by using modifier "-77") only under unusual circumstances. For more information, please visit the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services website (see reference below).

### COVERAGE

Benefits may vary between groups and contracts. Please refer to the appropriate Benefit Booklet, Evidence of Coverage or Subscriber Agreement for applicable radiology benefits/coverage.

### CODING

Not applicable

### RELATED POLICIES

Not applicable

### PUBLISHED

Provider Update, May 2024

Provider Update, December 2022

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## REFERENCES

1. Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 13, Section 100.1

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