



Reimbursement Policy	
Subject: Portable/Mobile/Handheld Radiology Services	
Policy Number: G-06160	Policy Section: Radiology
Last Approval Date: 12/19/2023	Effective Date: 07/23/2021

**** Visit our provider website for the most current version of the reimbursement policies. If you are using a printed version of this policy, please verify the information by going to <https://www.bluecrossnc.com/providers/blue-medicare-providers/healthy-blue-medicare>. ****

Disclaimer

These reimbursement policies serve as a guide to assist you in accurate claims submissions and to outline the basis for reimbursement if Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (Blue Cross NC) Medicare Advantage covered the service for the Healthy Blue + MedicareSM (HMO-POS D-SNP) member's benefit plan.

The determination that a service, procedure, item, etc. is covered under a member's benefit plan is not a determination that you will be reimbursed. Services must meet authorization and medical necessity guidelines appropriate to the procedure and diagnosis as well as to the member's state of residence.

You must follow proper billing and submission guidelines. You are required to use industry standard, compliant codes on all claim submissions. Services should be billed with Current Procedure Terminology[®] (CPT) codes, Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes, and/or revenue codes. These codes denote the services and/or procedures performed and, when billed, must be fully supported in the medical record and/or office notes. Unless otherwise noted within the policy, our reimbursement policies apply to both participating and non-participating professional providers and facilities.

If appropriate coding/billing guidelines or current reimbursement policies are not followed, Blue Cross NC Medicare Advantage may:

- Reject or deny the claim.
- Recover and/or recoup claim payment.
- Adjust the reimbursement to reflect the appropriate services and/or procedures performed.

These reimbursement policies may be superseded by mandates in provider, state, federal, or Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) contracts and/or requirements. Blue Cross

<https://www.bluecrossnc.com/providers/networks-programs/blue-medicare/healthy-blue-medicare>

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Senior Health, DBA Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina, is an HMO-POS D-SNP plan with a Medicare contract and a NC State Medicaid Agency Contract (SMAC). Enrollment in Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Senior Health depends upon contract renewal.

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NC Medicare Advantage strives to minimize delays in policy implementation. If there is a delay, we reserve the right to recoup and/or recover claims payment to the effective date in accordance with the policy. We reserve the right to review and revise these policies when necessary. When there is an update, we will publish the most current policy to the website.

Policy

Blue Cross NC allows reimbursement for portable/mobile radiology services when furnished in a residence used as the member's home, and if ordered by a physician and performed by qualified portable radiology suppliers unless provider, state, federal, or CMS contracts and/or requirements indicate otherwise.

Portable/mobile radiology studies should not be performed for routine purposes or for reasons of convenience. Reimbursement is based on the applicable fee schedule or contracted/negotiated rate for the radiological service, and transportation and setup components with the use of applicable modifiers.

Blue Cross NC allows preventive screenings performed by portable/mobile radiology studies for routine purposes.

Note: Portable radiology suppliers must be licensed or registered to perform services as required by applicable state laws.

Transportation

Blue Cross NC allows reimbursement for transportation of portable radiology equipment when transported to the member's residence. Transportation costs are payable when the portable X-ray equipment used was actually transported to the location where the X-ray was taken. Reimbursement for the setup cost of portable radiology equipment is separately reimbursable.

Reimbursement for transportation is based on a single payment for each particular location regardless of the number of members receiving radiological services. For services provided to more than one member, the transportation cost is divided by the total number of members receiving services at that location. If more than one member receives portable radiology services, providers must bill according to the Related Coding section. No modifier is required when only one member is served.

Nonreimbursable

Blue Cross NC does not allow reimbursement for transportation costs of equipment stored for use as needed at any location qualifying as a member's residence.

If the diagnostic X-rays are not covered, payment will not be made for the transportation and setup fee.

Handheld radiology

The use of handheld radiology instruments is allowed. Reimbursement will be part of the physician's professional service, and no additional charge will be paid. The technical components for handheld radiology are not separately reimbursable.

Related Coding		
Modifier	Description	Comments
Modifier UN	Two patients served	Transportation cost is divided by two members.
Modifier UP	Three patients served	Transportation cost is divided by three members.
Modifier UQ	Four patients served	Transportation cost is divided by four members.
Modifier UR	Five patients served	Transportation cost is divided by five members.
Modifier US	Six or more patients served	Transportation cost is divided by six members (regardless of number of members served).

Policy History	
12/19/2023	Review approved: no changes
07/23/2021	Review approved: no change to policy language
01/01/2021	Initial approval and effective

References and Research Materials
<p>This policy has been developed through consideration of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMS • Optum EncoderPro 2023 • State contract • State Medicaid

Definitions	
Portable Radiology Services	<p>Known as mobile radiology, portable radiology services are radiological procedures provided with hand-carried or mobile radiological components in a member's residence when the member is unable to travel to a physician's office or outpatient hospital radiology department due to the member's clinical condition. The member's residence must be one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private home • Assisted living facility • Nursing facility • Intermediate care facility
General Reimbursement Policy Definitions	

Related Policies and Materials

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina
Healthy Blue + Medicare (HMO-POS D-SNP)
Portable/Mobile/Handheld Radiology Services

Modifier Usage
Modifiers 26 and TC

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