

# Payment Policy CPP\_09

## Multiple Procedure Payment Reduction (MPPR) – Diagnostic Imaging Services

**Origination:** July 15, 2017  
**Last Review:** November 14, 2024  
**Next Review:** Policy Archived  
**Effective Date:** Policy Archived Effective March 01, 2025

## Description

This payment policy addresses the reimbursement methodology for claims containing services subject to the multiple procedure payment reduction for certain diagnostic imaging procedures.

## Policy & Guidelines

### Background

Procedures subject to the multiple procedure payment reduction (MPPR) include diagnostic radiology services. A list of these procedures can be found in [Appendix 1](#).

Many diagnostic services are composed of a technical and a professional component.

The **technical component** refers to the equipment and technician performing the service. It is identified by appending modifier -TC to the procedure code.

The **professional component** refers to the interpretation of the results of the service. When the professional component is reported separately the service may be identified by adding modifier -26 to the procedure code. Interpretation of a diagnostic procedure includes a written report.

When multiple diagnostic services are performed during a single session, most of the clinical labor activities and most supplies are not performed or furnished twice. The following clinical labor activities are performed once during the session and are duplicated for subsequent procedures, creating an overlap in the services comprising the separately billed technical components:

- Greeting the member.
- Positioning and escorting member.
- Providing education and obtaining consent.
- Retrieving prior exams.

- Setting up the infusion.
- Preparing and cleaning the room.

In addition, the supplies used are not duplicated for subsequent procedures.

## Policy

The multiple procedure payment reduction on diagnostic imaging applies when multiple services are furnished by the same physician, to the same member, in the same session, on the same day.

The MPPRs apply to -TC only services and the -TC of global services.

**Diagnostic Radiology Services:** Reimbursement for the technical and professional component of the primary procedure is 100% of the contracted allowed amount. Subsequent radiology services, furnished by the same physician to the same member on the same day, a 50% reduction shall apply to the contracted allowed amount for the technical component and a 25% reduction shall apply to the contracted allowed amount for the professional component.

## Eligible

This policy applies to all providers/facilities contracted with the Plan's Network (participating/in-network) and any non-participating/out-of-network providers/facilities.

## Not Eligible

A payment adjustment will not be considered when services are split billed, when the payment reduction was applied to the claim with the higher allowable (highest Blue cross VT allowed amount).

A payment adjustment will not be applied to diagnostic imaging services that were not prior approved based on Blue Cross VT list of services requiring prior approval, as claims for such services will deny for lack of prior approval.

## Provider Billing Guidelines and Documentation

When both a CPT® code and a HCPCS Level II code exist that describe the same service or procedure, bill with the CPT® code unless otherwise directed.

## Benefit Determination Guidance

Payment for services is determined by the member's benefits. It is important to verify the

member's benefits **prior** to providing the service to determine if benefits are available or if there is a specific exclusion in the member's benefit.

Eligible services are subject to applicable member cost sharing such as co-payments, co-insurance, and deductible.

**Federal Employee Program (FEP):** Members may have different benefits that apply. For further information, please contact FEP customer service or refer to the FEP Service Benefit Plan Brochure. It is important to verify the member's benefits **prior** to providing the service to determine if benefits are available or if there is a specific exclusion in the member's benefit.

**Inter Plan Programs (IPP):** In accordance with the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association's Inter-Plan Programs Policies and Provisions, this payment policy governs billing procedures for goods or services rendered by a Vermont-based provider (Blue Cross VT is the local Plan), including services rendered to out-of-state Blue members. Provider billing practices, payment policy and pricing are a local Plan responsibility that a member's Blue Plan must honor. A member's Blue Plan cannot dictate the type of claim form upon which services must be billed, codes and/or modifiers, place of service or provider type, unless it has its own direct contract with the provider (permitted only in limited situations). A member's Blue Plan cannot apply its local billing practices on claims rendered in another Plan's service area. A member's Blue Plan can only determine whether services rendered to their members are eligible for benefits. To understand if a service is eligible for payment, it is important to verify the member's benefits **prior** to providing services. In certain circumstances, the member may be financially responsible for services beyond the benefit provided for eligible services.

Claims are subject to payment edits that are updated at regular intervals and generally based on Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®), Health Care Procedural Coding System (HCPCS), Internal Classification of Diseases, CMS National Correct Coding Initiative Edits, Specialty Society guidelines, etc.

## Eligible Providers

This policy applies to all providers/facilities contracted with the Plan's Network (participating/in-network) and any non-participating/out-of-network providers/facilities.

## Audit Information

Blue Cross VT reserves the right to conduct audits on any provider and/or facility to ensure adherence with the guidelines stated in the payment policy. If an audit identifies instances of non-adherence with this payment policy, Blue Cross VT reserves the right to recover all non-adherence payments.

## Legislative and Regulatory Guidelines

N/A

## Related Policies

[Corporate Payment Policy \(CPP 32\) Claims Editing CLAIMSXTEN-SELECT™ and Cotiviti, Inc., Edits.](#)

## Document Precedence

The Blue Cross VT Payment Policy Manual was developed to provide guidance for providers regarding Blue Cross VT payment practices and facilitates the systematic application of Blue Cross VT member contracts and employer benefit documents, provider contracts, Blue Cross VT corporate medical policies, and Plan's claim editing logic. Document precedence is as follows:

- 1) To the extent that there may be any conflict between the Blue Cross VT Payment Policy Manual and the member contracts or employer benefit documents, the member contract or employer benefit document language takes precedence.
- 2) To the extent that there may be any conflict between the Blue Cross VT Payment Policy Manual and provider contract language, the provider contract language takes precedence.
- 3) To the extent that there may be any conflict between the Blue Cross VT Payment Policy Manual and corporate medical policy, the corporate medical policy takes precedence.
- 4) To the extent that there may be any conflict between the Blue Cross VT Payment Policy Manual and the Plan's claim editing solutions, the Plan's claim editing solution takes precedence.

## References

American Medical Association. (2024). Current Procedural Terminology (CPT). Chicago: AMA Press.

American Medical Association. (2024). Current Procedural Terminology (CPT). Appendix A – Modifiers. Chicago: AMA Press.

CMS. <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/medicare-fee-service-payment/physicianfeesched/pfs-federal-regulation-notice/cms-1784-f>

CMS. Revision <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and->

Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R1149OTN.pdf

CMS. Relative-ValueFiles <https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-NetworkMLN/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/mm9647.pdf>

## Policy Implementation/Update Information

This policy was originally implemented on July 15, 2017

Date of Change	Effective Date	Overview of Change
January 1, 2021	07/15/2017	New Policy
November 14, 2024	March 01, 2025	Policy archived effective 03/01/2025.

Approved by

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## APPENDIX I: List of Diagnostic Imaging Procedures Subject to Reduction

**Note:** This list may not be all-inclusive as the American Medical Association (AMA) and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) code updates may occur more frequently than policy updates.

Procedure Code	Description
<b>0648T</b>	Quantitative magnetic resonance for analysis of tissue composition (eg, fat, iron, water content), including multiparametric data acquisition, data preparation and transmission, interpretation and report, obtained without diagnostic MRI examination of the same anatomy (eg, organ, gland, tissue, target structure) during the same session; single organ
<b>70336</b>	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, temporomandibular joint(s)
<b>70450</b>	Computed tomography, head or brain; without contrast material
<b>70460</b>	Computed tomography, head or brain; with contrast material
<b>70470</b>	Computed tomography, head or brain, without contrast material, followed by contrast material(s) and further sections
<b>70480</b>	Computed tomography, orbit, sella, or posterior fossa or out, middle, or inner ear; without contrast material
<b>70481</b>	Computed tomography, orbit, sella, or posterior fossa or outer, middle, or inner ear; with contrast material
<b>70482</b>	Computed tomography, orbit, sella, or posterior fossa or outer, middle, or inner ear; without contrast material, followed by contrast material(s) and further sections
<b>70486</b>	Computed tomography, maxillofacial area; without contrast material
<b>70487</b>	Computed tomography, maxillofacial area; with contrast material
<b>70488</b>	Computed tomography, maxillofacial area; without contrast material followed by contrast material(s) and further sections
<b>70490</b>	Computed tomography, soft tissue neck; without contrast material
<b>70491</b>	Computed tomography, soft tissue neck; with contrast material
<b>70492</b>	Computed tomography, soft tissue neck; without contrast material followed by contrast material(s) and further sections
<b>70496</b>	Computed tomographic angiography, head, with contrast material(s), including non-contrast images, if performed, and image postprocessing
<b>70498</b>	Computed tomographic angiography, neck, with contrast material(s), including non-contrast images, if performed, and image postprocessing
<b>70540</b>	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, orbit, face, and/or neck, without contrast material(s)
<b>70542</b>	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, orbit, face, and/or neck, with contrast material(s)

<b>70543</b>	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, orbit, face, and/or neck, without contrast material(s), followed by contrast material(s) and further sequences
<b>70544</b>	Magnetic resonance angiography, head; without contrast material(s)
<b>70545</b>	Magnetic resonance angiography, head; with contrast material(s)
<b>70546</b>	Magnetic resonance angiography, head; without contrast material(s); followed by contrast material(s) and further sequences
<b>70547</b>	Magnetic resonance angiography, neck; without contrast material(s)
<b>70548</b>	Magnetic resonance angiography, neck; with contrast material(s)
<b>70549</b>	Magnetic resonance angiography, neck; without contrast material(s) and further sequences
<b>70551</b>	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, brain (including brain stem); without contrast material
<b>70552</b>	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, brain (including brain stem); with contrast material
<b>70553</b>	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, brain (including brain stem); without contrast material, followed by contrast material(s) and further sequencing
<b>70554</b>	Magnetic resonance imaging, brain, functional MRI; including test selection and administration of repetitive body part movement and/or visual stimulation, not requiring physician or psychologist administration
<b>71250</b>	Computed tomography, thorax; without contrast material
<b>71260</b>	Computed tomography, thorax; with contrast material
<b>71270</b>	Computed tomography, thorax; without contrast material, followed by contrast material(s) and further sections
<b>71271</b>	Computed tomography, thorax, low dose for lung cancer screening, without contrast material(s)
<b>71275</b>	Computed tomographic angiography, chest (non-coronary) without contrast material(s), followed by contrast material(s) and further sections, including post-imaging processing
<b>71550</b>	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, chest (e.g., for evaluation of hilar and mediastinal lymphadenopathy); without contrast material
<b>71551</b>	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, chest (e.g., for evaluation of hilar and mediastinal lymphadenopathy); with contrast material
<b>71552</b>	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, chest (e.g., for evaluation of hilar and mediastinal lymphadenopathy); without contrast material, followed by contrast material(s) and further sequences
<b>71555</b>	Magnetic resonance angiography, chest (excluding myocardium), without or without contrast material(s)
<b>72125</b>	Computed tomography, cervical spine; without contrast material
<b>72126</b>	Computed tomography, cervical spine; with contrast material
<b>72127</b>	Computed tomography, cervical spine; without contrast material, followed by contrast material(s) and further sequences

<b>72128</b>	Computed tomography, thoracic spine; without contrast material
<b>72129</b>	Computed tomography, thoracic spine; with contrast material
<b>72130</b>	Computed tomography, thoracic spine; without contrast material, followed by contrast material(s) and further sequences
<b>72131</b>	Computed tomography, lumbar spine; without contrast material
<b>72132</b>	Computed tomography, lumbar spine; with contrast material
<b>72133</b>	Computed tomography, lumbar spine; without contrast material, followed by contrast material(s) and further sequences
<b>72141</b>	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, spinal canal and contents, cervical, without contrast material
<b>72142</b>	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, spinal canal and contents, cervical, with contrast material
<b>72146</b>	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, spinal canal and contents, thoracic, without contrast material
<b>72147</b>	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, spinal canal and contents, thoracic, with contrast material
<b>72148</b>	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, spinal canal and contents, lumbar, without contrast material
<b>72149</b>	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, spinal canal and contents, lumbar, with contrast material
<b>72156</b>	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, spinal canal and contents, without contrast material(s) and further sequences, cervical
<b>72157</b>	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, spinal canal and contents, without contrast material(s) and further sequences, thoracic
<b>72158</b>	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, spinal canal and contents, without contrast material(s) and further sequences, lumbar
<b>72159</b>	Magnetic resonance angiography, spinal canal and contents, with or without contrast material(s)
<b>72191</b>	Computed tomographic angiography, pelvis; without contrast material, followed by contrast material(s) and further sections, including image post-processing
<b>72192</b>	Computed tomographic angiography, pelvis; without contrast material
<b>72193</b>	Computed tomographic angiography, pelvis; with contrast material
<b>72194</b>	Computed tomography pelvis; without contrast material, followed by contrast material(s) and further sections
<b>72195</b>	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, pelvis, without contrast material
<b>72196</b>	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, pelvis, with contrast material
<b>72197</b>	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, pelvis, without contrast material, followed by contrast material(s) and further sequences
<b>72198</b>	Magnetic resonance angiography, pelvis, with or without contrast material(s)
<b>73200</b>	Computed tomography, upper extremity, without contrast material



<b>73201</b>	Computed tomography, upper extremity, with contrast material(s)
<b>73202</b>	Computed tomography, upper extremity, without contrast material, followed by contrast material(s) and further sequences
<b>73206</b>	Computed tomography, upper extremity, without contrast material, followed by contrast material(s) and further sections, including image post-processing
<b>73218</b>	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, upper extremity, other than joint, without contrast material
<b>73219</b>	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, upper extremity, other than joint, with contrast material
<b>73220</b>	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, upper extremity, other than joint, without contrast material, followed by contrast material(s) and further sequences
<b>73221</b>	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, any joint of upper extremity, without contrast material
<b>73222</b>	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, any joint of upper extremity, with contrast material
<b>73223</b>	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, any joint of upper extremity, without contrast material(s) followed by contrast material(s) and further sequences
<b>73225</b>	Magnetic resonance angiography, upper extremity, with or without contrast material
<b>73700</b>	Computed tomography, lower extremity, without contrast material
<b>73701</b>	Computed tomography, lower extremity, with contrast material(s)
<b>73702</b>	Computed tomography, lower extremity, without contrast material, followed by contrast material(s) and further sequences
<b>73706</b>	Computed tomography, lower extremity, without contrast material(s), followed by contrast material(s) and further sections, including image post-processing
<b>73718</b>	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, lower extremity, other than joint, without contrast material
<b>73719</b>	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, lower extremity, other than joint, with contrast material
<b>73720</b>	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, lower extremity, other than joint, without contrast material, followed by contrast material(s) and further sequences
<b>73721</b>	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, any joint of lower extremity, without contrast material
<b>73722</b>	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, any joint of lower extremity, with contrast material
<b>73723</b>	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, any joint of lower extremity, without contrast material(s) followed by contrast material(s) and further sequences

<b>73725</b>	Magnetic resonance angiography, lower extremity, with or without contrast material
<b>74150</b>	Computed tomography, abdomen, without contrast material
<b>74160</b>	Computed tomography, abdomen, with contrast material
<b>74170</b>	Computed tomography, abdomen and pelvis, without contrast material, followed by contrast material(s) and further sections
<b>74174</b>	Computed tomographic angiography, abdomen and pelvis, with contrast material(s), including non-contrast images, if performed, and image post-processing
<b>74175</b>	Computed tomographic angiography, abdomen; without contrast material(s), followed by contrast material(s) and further sections, including image post-processing
<b>74176</b>	Computed tomography, abdomen and pelvis, without contrast material
<b>74177</b>	Computed tomography, abdomen and pelvis, with contrast material
<b>74178</b>	Computed tomography, abdomen and pelvis, without contrast material in one or both body regions, followed by contrast material(s) and further sections in one or both body regions
<b>74181</b>	Magnetic resonance (e.g. proton) imaging, abdomen, without contrast material(s)
<b>74182</b>	Magnetic resonance (e.g. proton) imaging, abdomen, with contrast material(s)
<b>74183</b>	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, abdomen, without contrast material(s) followed by contrast material(s) and further sequences
<b>74185</b>	Magnetic resonance angiography, abdomen with or without contrast material
<b>74261</b>	Computed tomographic (CT) colonography, diagnostic, including image postprocessing, without contrast material
<b>74262</b>	Computed tomographic (CT) colonography, diagnostic, including image postprocessing, with contrast material(s) including non-contrast images, if performed
<b>74712</b>	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, fetal, including placental and maternal pelvic imaging when performed; single or first gestation
<b>75557</b>	Cardiac magnetic resonance imaging for morphology and function without contrast material
<b>75559</b>	Cardiac magnetic resonance imaging for morphology and function without contrast material; with stress imaging
<b>75561</b>	Cardiac magnetic resonance imaging for morphology and function without contrast material(s), followed by contrast material(s) and further sequences
<b>75563</b>	Cardiac magnetic resonance imaging for morphology and function without contrast material(s), followed by contrast material(s) and further sequences; with stress imaging

<b>75571</b>	Computed tomography, heart, without contrast material, with quantitative evaluation of coronary calcium
<b>75572</b>	Computed tomography, heart, with contrast material, for evaluation of cardiac structure and morphology (including 3D image postprocessing, assessment of cardiac function, and evaluation of venous structures, if performed)
<b>75573</b>	Computed tomography, heart, with contrast material, for evaluation of cardiac structure and morphology in the setting of congenital heart disease (including 3D image postprocessing, assessment of LV cardiac function, RV structure and function and evaluation of venous structures, if performed)
<b>75574</b>	Computed tomographic angiography, heart, coronary arteries and bypass grafts (when present), with contrast material, including 3D image post processing (including evaluation of cardiac structure and morphology, assessment of cardiac function, and evaluation of venous structures, if performed)
<b>75635</b>	Computed tomographic angiography, abdominal aorta and bilateral iliofemoral lower extremity runoff, radiological supervision and interpretation, without contrast material(s), followed by contrast material(s) and further sections, including image post-processing
<b>76391</b>	Magnetic resonance (eg, vibration) elastography
<b>76604</b>	Ultrasound, chest (includes mediastinum), real time with image documentation
<b>76700</b>	Ultrasound, abdominal, real time with image documentation, complete
<b>76705</b>	E Ultrasound, abdominal, real time with image documentation, limited (e.g., single organ, quadrant, follow-up)
<b>76770</b>	Ultrasound, retroperitoneal (e.g., renal, aorta, nodes), real time with image documentation, complete
<b>76775</b>	Ultrasound, retroperitoneal (e.g., renal, aorta, nodes), real time with image documentation, limited
<b>76776</b>	Ultrasound, transplanted kidney, real time with duplex Doppler with image documentation
<b>76831</b>	Saline infusion sonohysterography (SIS), including color flow Doppler, when performed
<b>76856</b>	Ultrasound, pelvic (non-obstetric), real time with image documentation, complete
<b>76857</b>	Ultrasound, pelvic (non-obstetric), real time with image documentation, limited or follow up (e.g., for follicles)
<b>76870</b>	Ultrasound, scrotum and contents
<b>76978</b>	Ultrasound, targeted dynamic microbubble sonographic contrast characterization (non-cardiac); initial lesion
<b>76981</b>	Ultrasound, elastography; parenchyma (eg, organ)
<b>76982</b>	Ultrasound, elastography; first target lesion
<b>77046</b>	Magnetic resonance imaging, breast, without contrast material; unilateral

<b>77047</b>	Magnetic resonance imaging, breast, without contrast material; bilateral
<b>77048</b>	Magnetic resonance imaging, breast, without and with contrast material(s), including computer-aided detection (CAD real-time lesion detection, characterization and pharmacokinetic analysis), when performed; unilateral
<b>77049</b>	Magnetic resonance imaging, breast, without and with contrast material(s), including computer-aided detection (CAD real-time lesion detection, characterization and pharmacokinetic analysis), when performed; bilateral
<b>78306</b>	Bone and/or joint imaging; whole body
<b>78802</b>	Radiopharmaceutical localization of tumor, inflammatory process or distribution of radiopharmaceutical agent(s) (includes vascular flow and blood pool imaging, when performed); planar, whole body, single day imaging
<b>78803</b>	Radiopharmaceutical localization of tumor, inflammatory process or distribution of radiopharmaceutical agent(s) (includes vascular flow and blood pool imaging, when performed); tomographic (SPECT), single area (eg, head, neck, chest, pelvis) or acquisition, single day imaging

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