

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) and Computed Tomography (CT) Scan – Site of Service

Policy Number: RADIOLOGY 041.2 T2
Effective Date: September 1, 2020

[➔ Instructions for Use](#)

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Related Policies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breast Imaging for Screening and Diagnosing Cancer • Radiology Procedures Requiring Prior Authorization for eviCore Healthcare Arrangement

Coverage Rationale

[➔ See Benefit Considerations](#)

An advanced radiologic imaging procedure in the hospital outpatient department is considered medically necessary for individuals who meet any of the following criteria:

- Less than 19 years of age
- Require obstetrical observation
- Require perinatology services
- Have a known contrast allergy
- Have a known chronic disease undergoing active treatment or surveillance for which direct comparison to prior hospital based imaging is required for care planning
- Pre-procedure imaging which is done within 24 hours of the interventional or surgical procedure and is an integral part of the planned procedure

An advanced radiologic imaging procedure in the hospital outpatient department is considered medically necessary when there are no geographically accessible appropriate alternative sites for the individual to undergo the procedure, including but not limited to the following:

- Moderate or deep sedation or general anesthesia is required for the procedure; or
- The equipment for the size of the individual is not available; or
- Open magnetic resonance imaging is required because the member has a documented diagnosis of claustrophobia and/or severe anxiety

An advanced radiologic imaging procedure in the hospital outpatient department is considered medically necessary when imaging in a physician’s office or freestanding imaging center would reasonably be expected to delay care and adversely impact health outcome.

All other advanced radiologic imaging procedures in the hospital outpatient department are considered not medically necessary.

Documentation Requirements

Benefit coverage for health services is determined by the member specific benefit plan document and applicable laws that may require coverage for a specific service. The documentation requirements outlined below are used to assess whether the member meets the clinical criteria for coverage but do not guarantee coverage of the service requested.

Required Clinical Information	
MRI/CT Scan – Site of Service	
Provider should call the number on the member’s ID card when referring for radiology services.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recent history and physical with documentation of medical necessity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reports of all recent imaging studies and applicable diagnostics ○ Relevant medication(s) taken ○ Documentation of pain; including pain scale, onset, duration, frequency, and location ● If location being requested is an outpatient hospital, in addition to the above, provide medical notes documenting one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Less than 19 years of age ○ Require obstetrical observation ○ Require perinatology services ○ Have a known contrast allergy ○ Have a known chronic disease undergoing active treatment or surveillance for which direct comparison to prior hospital-based imaging is required for care planning ○ Pre-procedure which is done within 24 hours of the interventional or surgical procedure and is an integral part of the planned procedure 	
Or	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● When there are no geographically accessible appropriate alternative sites for the individual to undergo the procedure, including but not limited to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Moderate or deep sedation or general anesthesia is required for the procedure; or ○ The equipment for the size of the individual is not available; or ○ Open magnetic resonance imaging is required because the member has a documented diagnosis of claustrophobia and/or severe anxiety 	
Or	
When imaging in a physician’s office or freestanding imaging center would reasonably be expected to delay care and adversely impact health outcome	

Prior Authorization Requirements

Service	Group/Plan Type	Prior Authorization Requirement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MRI ● CT Scan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CT Large and CT Small ● NY Large and NY Small ● NJ Large 	Prior authorization is required. Note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In or out of network provider status does not impact the requirement.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NJ School Board ● NJ Municipalities ● NJ Small 	Medical necessity review is required. Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review can be requested prior to service. ● In or out of network provider status does not impact the requirement.

Applicable Codes

The following list(s) of procedure and/or diagnosis codes is provided for reference purposes only and may not be all inclusive. Listing of a code in this policy does not imply that the service described by the code is a covered or non-covered health service. Benefit coverage for health services is determined by the member specific benefit plan document and applicable laws that may require coverage for a specific service. The inclusion of a code does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee claim payment. Other Policies may apply.

CPT Code	Description
Computed Tomography	
70450	Computed tomography, head or brain; without contrast material
70460	Computed tomography, head or brain; with contrast material(s)
70470	Computed tomography, head or brain; without contrast material, followed by contrast material(s) and further sections
70480	Computed tomography, orbit, sella, or posterior fossa or outer, middle, or inner ear; without contrast material
70481	Computed tomography, orbit, sella, or posterior fossa or outer, middle, or inner ear; with contrast material(s)
70482	Computed tomography, orbit, sella, or posterior fossa or outer, middle, or inner ear; without contrast material, followed by contrast material(s) and further sections
70486	Computed tomography, maxillofacial area; without contrast material
70487	Computed tomography, maxillofacial area; with contrast material(s)
70488	Computed tomography, maxillofacial area; without contrast material, followed by contrast material(s) and further sections
70490	Computed tomography, soft tissue neck; without contrast material
70491	Computed tomography, soft tissue neck; with contrast material(s)
70492	Computed tomography, soft tissue neck; without contrast material followed by contrast material(s) and further sections
70496	Computed tomographic angiography, head, with contrast material(s), including noncontrast images, if performed, and image postprocessing
70498	Computed tomographic angiography, neck, with contrast material(s), including noncontrast images, if performed, and image postprocessing
71250	Computed tomography, thorax; without contrast material
71260	Computed tomography, thorax; with contrast material(s)
71270	Computed tomography, thorax; without contrast material, followed by contrast material(s) and further sections
71275	Computed tomographic angiography, chest (noncoronary), with contrast material(s), including noncontrast images, if performed, and image postprocessing
72125	Computed tomography, cervical spine; without contrast material
72126	Computed tomography, cervical spine; with contrast material
72127	Computed tomography, cervical spine; without contrast material, followed by contrast material(s) and further sections
72128	Computed tomography, thoracic spine; without contrast material
72129	Computed tomography, thoracic spine; with contrast material
72130	Computed tomography, thoracic spine; without contrast material, followed by contrast material(s) and further sections
72131	Computed tomography, lumbar spine; without contrast material

CPT Code	Description
Computed Tomography	
72132	Computed tomography, lumbar spine; with contrast material
72133	Computed tomography, lumbar spine; without contrast material, followed by contrast material(s) and further sections
72191	Computed tomographic angiography, pelvis, with contrast material(s), including noncontrast images, if performed, and image postprocessing
72192	Computed tomography, pelvis; without contrast material
72193	Computed tomography, pelvis; with contrast material(s)
72194	Computed tomography, pelvis; without contrast material, followed by contrast material(s) and further sections
73200	Computed tomography, upper extremity; without contrast material
73201	Computed tomography, upper extremity; with contrast material(s)
73202	Computed tomography, upper extremity; without contrast material, followed by contrast material(s) and further sections
73206	Computed tomographic angiography, upper extremity, with contrast material(s), including noncontrast images, if performed, and image postprocessing
73700	Computed tomography, lower extremity; without contrast material
73701	Computed tomography, lower extremity; with contrast material(s)
73702	Computed tomography, lower extremity; without contrast material, followed by contrast material(s) and further sections
73706	Computed tomographic angiography, lower extremity, with contrast material(s), including noncontrast images, if performed, and image postprocessing
74150	Computed tomography, abdomen; without contrast material
74160	Computed tomography, abdomen; with contrast material(s)
74170	Computed tomography, abdomen; without contrast material, followed by contrast material(s) and further sections
74174	Computed tomographic angiography, abdomen and pelvis, with contrast material(s), including noncontrast images, if performed, and image postprocessing
74175	Computed tomographic angiography, abdomen, with contrast material(s), including noncontrast images, if performed, and image postprocessing
74176	Computed tomography, abdomen and pelvis; without contrast material
74177	Computed tomography, abdomen and pelvis; with contrast material(s)
74178	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
74261	Computed tomographic (CT) colonography, diagnostic, including image postprocessing; without contrast material
74262	Computed tomographic (CT) colonography, diagnostic, including image postprocessing; with contrast material(s) including non-contrast images, if performed
74263	Computed tomographic (CT) colonography, screening, including image postprocessing
75571	Computed tomography, heart, without contrast material, with quantitative evaluation of coronary calcium
75572	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)

CPT Code	Description
Computed Tomography	
75573	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)
75574	Computed tomographic angiography, heart, coronary arteries and bypass grafts (when present), with contrast material, including 3D image postprocessing (including evaluation of cardiac structure and morphology, assessment of cardiac function, and evaluation of venous structures, if performed)
75635	Computed tomographic angiography, abdominal aorta and bilateral iliofemoral lower extremity runoff, with contrast material(s), including noncontrast images, if performed, and image postprocessing
76380	Computed tomography, limited or localized follow-up study
76497	Unlisted computed tomography procedure (e.g., diagnostic, interventional)
Magnetic Resonance Imaging	
70336	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, temporomandibular joint(s)
70540	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, orbit, face, and/or neck; without contrast material(s)
70542	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, orbit, face, and/or neck; with contrast material(s)
70543	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, orbit, face, and/or neck; without contrast material(s), followed by contrast material(s) and further sequences
70544	Magnetic resonance angiography, head; without contrast material(s)
70545	Magnetic resonance angiography, head; with contrast material(s)
70546	Magnetic resonance angiography, head; without contrast material(s), followed by contrast material(s) and further sequences
70547	Magnetic resonance angiography, neck; without contrast material(s)
70548	Magnetic resonance angiography, neck; with contrast material(s)
70549	Magnetic resonance angiography, neck; without contrast material(s), followed by contrast material(s) and further sequences
70551	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, brain (including brain stem); without contrast material
70552	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, brain (including brain stem); with contrast material(s)
70553	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, brain (including brain stem); without contrast material, followed by contrast material(s) and further sequences
70554	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
70555	Magnetic resonance imaging, brain, functional MRI; requiring physician or psychologist administration of entire neurofunctional testing
71550	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, chest (e.g., for evaluation of hilar and mediastinal lymphadenopathy); without contrast material(s)
71551	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, chest (e.g., for evaluation of hilar and mediastinal lymphadenopathy); with contrast material(s)
71552	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, chest (e.g., for evaluation of hilar and mediastinal lymphadenopathy); without contrast material(s), followed by contrast material(s) and further sequences
72141	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, spinal canal and contents, cervical; without contrast material
72142	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, spinal canal and contents, cervical; with contrast material(s)
72146	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, spinal canal and contents, thoracic; without contrast material
72147	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, spinal canal and contents, thoracic; with contrast material(s)
72148	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, spinal canal and contents, lumbar; without contrast material

CPT Code	Description
Magnetic Resonance Imaging	
72149	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, spinal canal and contents, lumbar; with contrast material(s)
72156	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, spinal canal and contents, without contrast material, followed by contrast material(s) and further sequences; cervical
72157	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, spinal canal and contents, without contrast material, followed by contrast material(s) and further sequences; thoracic
72158	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, spinal canal and contents, without contrast material, followed by contrast material(s) and further sequences; lumbar
72195	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, pelvis; without contrast material(s)
72196	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, pelvis; with contrast material(s)
72197	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, pelvis; without contrast material(s), followed by contrast material(s) and further sequences
73218	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, upper extremity, other than joint; without contrast material(s)
73219	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, upper extremity, other than joint; with contrast material(s)
73220	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, upper extremity, other than joint; without contrast material(s), followed by contrast material(s) and further sequences
73221	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, any joint of upper extremity; without contrast material(s)
73222	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, any joint of upper extremity; with contrast material(s)
73223	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, any joint of upper extremity; without contrast material(s), followed by contrast material(s) and further sequences
73718	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, lower extremity other than joint; without contrast material(s)
73719	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, lower extremity other than joint; with contrast material(s)
73720	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, lower extremity other than joint; without contrast material(s), followed by contrast material(s) and further sequences
73721	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, any joint of lower extremity; without contrast material
73722	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, any joint of lower extremity; with contrast material(s)
73723	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, any joint of lower extremity; without contrast material(s), followed by contrast material(s) and further sequences
74181	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, abdomen; without contrast material(s)
74182	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, abdomen; with contrast material(s)
74712	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, fetal, including placental and maternal pelvic imaging when performed; single or first gestation
74713	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, fetal, including placental and maternal pelvic imaging when performed; each additional gestation (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
75557	Cardiac magnetic resonance imaging for morphology and function without contrast material
75559	Cardiac magnetic resonance imaging for morphology and function without contrast material; with stress imaging
75561	Cardiac magnetic resonance imaging for morphology and function without contrast material(s), followed by contrast material(s) and further sequences;
75563	Cardiac magnetic resonance imaging for morphology and function without contrast material(s), followed by contrast material(s) and further sequences; with stress imaging
76498	Unlisted magnetic resonance procedure (e.g., diagnostic, interventional)
77021	Magnetic resonance imaging guidance for needle placement (e.g., for biopsy, needle aspiration, injection, or placement of localization device) radiological supervision and interpretation
77046	Magnetic resonance imaging, breast, without contrast material; unilateral

CPT Code	Description
Magnetic Resonance Imaging	
77047	Magnetic resonance imaging, breast, without contrast material; bilateral
77084	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, bone marrow blood supply
71555	Magnetic resonance angiography, chest (excluding myocardium), with or without contrast material(s)
72159	Magnetic resonance angiography, spinal canal and contents, with or without contrast material(s)
72198	Magnetic resonance angiography, pelvis, with or without contrast material(s)
73225	Magnetic resonance angiography, upper extremity, with or without contrast material(s)
73725	Magnetic resonance angiography, lower extremity, with or without contrast material(s)
74183	Magnetic resonance (e.g., proton) imaging, abdomen; without contrast material(s), followed by with contrast material(s) and further sequences
74185	Magnetic resonance angiography, abdomen, with or without contrast material(s)
76390	Magnetic resonance spectroscopy
77048	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
77049	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

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HCPCS Code	Description
Computed Tomography	
G0297	Low dose CT scan (LDCT) for lung cancer screening
S8092	Electron beam computed tomography (also known as ultrafast CT, cine CT)
Magnetic Resonance Imaging	
C8900	Magnetic resonance angiography with contrast, abdomen
C8901	Magnetic resonance angiography without contrast, abdomen
C8902	Magnetic resonance angiography without contrast followed by with contrast, abdomen
C8903	Magnetic resonance imaging with contrast, breast; unilateral
C8905	Magnetic resonance imaging without contrast followed by with contrast, breast; unilateral
C8906	Magnetic resonance imaging with contrast, breast; bilateral
C8908	Magnetic resonance imaging without contrast followed by with contrast, breast; bilateral
C8909	Magnetic resonance angiography with contrast, chest (excluding myocardium)
C8910	Magnetic resonance angiography without contrast, chest (excluding myocardium)
C8911	Magnetic resonance angiography without contrast followed by with contrast, chest (excluding myocardium)
C8912	Magnetic resonance angiography with contrast, lower extremity
C8913	Magnetic resonance angiography without contrast, lower extremity
C8914	Magnetic resonance angiography without contrast followed by with contrast, lower extremity
C8918	Magnetic resonance angiography with contrast, pelvis
C8919	Magnetic resonance angiography without contrast, pelvis
C8920	Magnetic resonance angiography without contrast followed by with contrast, pelvis
C8931	Magnetic resonance angiography with contrast, spinal canal and contents
C8932	Magnetic resonance angiography without contrast, spinal canal and contents

HCPCS Code	Description
Magnetic Resonance Imaging	
C8933	Magnetic resonance angiography without contrast followed by with contrast, spinal canal and contents
C8934	Magnetic resonance angiography with contrast, upper extremity
C8935	Magnetic resonance angiography without contrast, upper extremity
C8936	Magnetic resonance angiography without contrast followed by with contrast, upper extremity
S8037	Magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography (MRCP)
S8042	Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), low-field

Benefit Considerations

NY, CT, and NJ Large Groups with Out-of-Network Benefits

Oxford commercial members who have out-of-network benefits and who are part of a NY, CT, or NJ Large Group Plan also need to obtain prior authorization for MRI, MRA, PET, CT, and Nuclear Medicine studies when seeing an out-of-network provider.

NJ Small Group, NJ School Board, and NJ Municipality Plans

Services indicated as requiring prior authorization require medical necessity review. This review may be requested prior to service. If a medical necessity review is not requested by the provider prior to service, the medical necessity review will be conducted after the service is rendered with no penalty imposed for failure to request the review prior to rendering the service. It is the referring physician's responsibility to provide medical documentation to demonstrate clinical necessity for the study that is being requested (for review prior to service) or has been rendered (for review after service was provided).

References

The foregoing Oxford policy has been adapted from an existing UnitedHealthcare national policy that was researched, developed and approved by UnitedHealthcare Medical Technology Assessment Committee. [*URG-13.04*]

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Committee opinion 723: Guidelines for diagnostic imaging during pregnancy and lactation. October 2017. Correction published January 2018.

American Society of Anesthesiologists. Practice Advisory on anesthetic care for magnetic resonance imaging. *Anesthesiology*. V 122; No 3. March 2015.

American Society of Anesthesiologists. Statement on nonoperating room anesthetizing locations. October 16, 2013. Reaffirmed on October 17, 2018.

American Society of Anesthesiologists. Statement on practice recommendations for pediatric anesthesia. October 26, 2016.

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services: Place of Service Code Set. http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/place-of-service-codes/Place_of_Service_Code_Set.html

Policy History/Revision Information

Date	Summary of Changes
09/01/2020	<p>Template Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reformatted policy; transferred content to new template• Removed and replaced section titled <i>Conditions of Coverage</i> with <i>Prior Authorization Requirements</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Simplified and relocated language pertaining to prior authorization guidelines○ Removed language addressing benefit type and referral requirements (refer to the member specific benefit plan document)• Replaced references to “precertification” with “prior authorization” <p>Supporting Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Archived previous policy version RADIOLOGY 041.1 T2

Instructions for Use

This Clinical Policy provides assistance in interpreting UnitedHealthcare Oxford standard benefit plans. When deciding coverage, the member specific benefit plan document must be referenced as the terms of the member specific benefit plan may differ from the standard plan. In the event of a conflict, the member specific benefit plan document governs. Before using this policy, please check the member specific benefit plan document and any applicable federal or state mandates. UnitedHealthcare Oxford reserves the right to modify its Policies as necessary. This Clinical Policy is provided for informational purposes. It does not constitute medical advice.

The term Oxford includes Oxford Health Plans, LLC and all of its subsidiaries as appropriate for these policies. Unless otherwise stated, Oxford policies do not apply to Medicare Advantage members.

UnitedHealthcare may also use tools developed by third parties, such as the MCG™ Care Guidelines, to assist us in administering health benefits. UnitedHealthcare Oxford Clinical Policies are intended to be used in connection with the independent professional medical judgment of a qualified health care provider and do not constitute the practice of medicine or medical advice.