



Payment Policies

To date, the IAC is aware that the following insurers or companies have adopted nuclear medicine, nuclear cardiology and/or PET reimbursement directives. While the IAC attempts to stay abreast of reimbursement policies as a service to the nuclear/PET community, these policies are changed and updated regularly by the insurance carriers. Therefore, the IAC recommends that applicant facilities contact the insurance carriers in their area for the most accurate and current information to ensure compliance with reimbursement requirements at all times. If you are aware of additional payment policies, or have questions about the information posted, please e-mail reimbursement@intersocietal.org.

PLEASE NOTE: The policy details within this document detailing accreditation requirements are referenced directly from insurer websites and manuals and are only a portion of the full reimbursement directives, please search for the full policy using the links provided.

Aetna (National)

Referenced from the [Office Manual for Health Care Professionals – All Regions](#)

Radiology Accreditation

Aetna requires accreditation to be eligible for reimbursement for the technical component of advanced diagnostic imaging procedures. Accreditation can be from:

- American College of Radiology (ACR)
- **Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC)**
- Joint Commission (TJC), and/or RadSite

The following types of providers require this accreditation:

- Independent diagnostic testing facilities
- Freestanding imaging centers
- Office-based imaging facilities
- Physicians
- Nonphysician practitioners
- Suppliers of advanced diagnostic imaging procedures

For these purposes, advanced diagnostic imaging procedures exclude X-ray, ultrasound, fluoroscopy and mammography. Included are:

- Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)
- Magnetic resonance angiography (MRA)
- Computed tomography (CT)
- Echocardiograms
- **Nuclear medicine imaging, such as positron emission tomography (PET)**
- **Single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT)**

Note: Providers not accredited by the ACR, IAC, TJC and/or RadSite will not be eligible for payment for advanced diagnostic imaging services.

Please note: The above requirements list only a portion of the full reimbursement directive as related to accreditation. For full requirements, please refer to the [Network Participation Criteria](#) or the [Office Manual for Health Care Professionals – All Regions \(Updated September 2022\)](#)»

Anthem BCBS (Virginia)

Referenced from the [Anthem Virginia Facility Provider Manual](#)

Diagnostic Imaging Accreditation:

Within 30 days of receipt of a written request, Facility provider shall provide to Anthem such information as may be requested concerning diagnostic imaging services, equipment, licensure and/or accreditation. Facility shall provide such information in the manner and format reasonably required by Anthem (including, without limitation, using a web-based tool). Additionally, after making its original submission of this information to Anthem, whenever any material change occurs with respect to Facility's diagnostic imaging services, equipment, licensure and/or accreditation, Facility shall update Anthem on such change within 30 days of the change (unless a shorter timeframe is required elsewhere in this Agreement).

Facilities that perform or conduct any Ultrasound, CT, CTA, MRI, MRA, MRS, PET, Cardiac Echocardiography and/or Nuclear/Nuclear Cardiology studies shall be accredited by the American College of Radiology (ACR), [Intersocietal Accreditation Commission \(IAC\)](#), American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM) or the American Society of Breast Surgeons (ASBS) for each piece of equipment utilized in such studies. Facility has one year from the acquisition of the modality to obtain accreditation. Facility will make no charge and render no bill to any Plan, the Member, or the Member's guarantor for any of the studies listed above, and they shall have no obligation to make any payment to anyone, including Facility, for such studies, unless the studies are performed on accredited equipment as specified above

Please note: The above requirements list only a portion of the full reimbursement directive as related to accreditation. For full requirements, please refer to the [Anthem Virginia Facility Provider Manual](#) (Updated June 2022).

Arkansas BCBS

Referenced from the ABCBS Provider Manual (Updated March 2022)

Imaging Centers Purchased by Hospitals

Per the terms of participation for the Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield Preferred Payment Plan, Health Advantage HMO network, and USABLE Corporation's Arkansas' FirstSource® and True Blue PPO networks, **advanced imaging centers must be accredited by one of the agencies that meets approval per these networks' required accreditation program.** This includes advanced imaging centers purchased by another organization, including hospitals.

In most situations, a currently accredited imaging center can simply notify the accrediting agency (e.g., American College of Radiology or [Intersocietal Accreditation Commission](#)) and ask for a certificate with the new organization's name applied to it. Arkansas Blue Cross, Health Advantage, and USABLE Corporation will need a copy of the new certificate.

Please understand that if the imaging center's new owner is a hospital, the hospital's Joint Commission accreditation does not automatically apply. In order for this to apply, the hospital must be performing both inpatient and outpatient imaging services and the imaging center must have been part of the on-site review performed by the Joint Commission when the accreditation was given.

Please note: The above requirements list only a portion of the full reimbursement directive as related to accreditation. For more information on the ABCBS requirements, please review the [ABCBS Provider Manual](#)»

BCBS of Alabama

Radiology Facility and Technology Assessment Program ([link](#))

All Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama Preferred Radiology (PRP) Providers **must have current accreditation** through American College of Radiology (ACR) and or [Intersocietal Accreditation Commission \(IAC\)](#).

Exhibit B: Credentialing Criteria

At least one of the following accreditation standards must be met by Provider and Provider's practice site at all times:

- Current American College of Radiology (ACR), IAC Nuclear/PET, IAC CT, IAC MRI, or other national accreditation agencies or standards as determined by Corporation, as applicable. Accreditation must be maintained for every example of the following devices at each practice site: magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computed tomography (CT) and PET.

Blue Cross of Idaho

Referenced from the Blue Cross of Idaho Provider Administrative Policy

Imaging Accreditation

This policy is intended to promote reasonable and consistent quality and safety requirements for providers of imaging services. We established these requirements to describe the accreditation and certification conditions a person might associate with high-quality imaging services. We hope to establish an environment where qualified operators perform imaging studies using appropriate equipment and techniques and where qualified physicians interpret images.

These requirements apply to all non-hospital providers of advanced imaging services. They supplement the requirements for facility providers and physicians as contained in the Facility, Physician and Clinic Agreements. All non-hospital providers of advanced imaging services are required to register in the AIM OptiNet system in order to receive the higher compensation for the advanced imaging services. Clinics that complete registration, will be effective the first of the following month of notification of complete registration is received by your provider network management specialist by the 15th of the prior month.

The OptiNet Registration can be accessed through the provider portal at bcidaho.com.

Specific Requirements for Physician and Facility Imaging Providers

- Physician or clinic providers that use advanced imaging equipment in their practice to diagnose and treat their own patients within their own specialty area of practice may not accept referrals from other providers for the purpose of performing diagnostic imaging tests for other providers' patients.
- Facility providers must be certified by Medicare as an Independent Diagnostic Testing Facility (IDTF) or radiology clinic.
- These facilities may accept referrals from community physicians. These facilities must be available for diagnostic imaging services for a minimum of 40 hours per week and have images available after hours.

Requirements Specific to Nuclear Cardiology

- **Nuclear cardiology practices must achieve accreditation by [IAC Nuclear/PET \(formerly ICANL\)](#) or the ACR (American College of Radiology) within two years of Provisional acceptance in the Privileging Program.**

Please note: The above requirements list only a portion of the full reimbursement directive as related to accreditation. Review the complete policy (Revised February 2023) on the Blue Cross of Idaho website at providers.bcidaho.com/policies-and-procedures/pap/pap249.page.

BCBS of Michigan

Freestanding Radiology Center

To enroll, providers in a freestanding radiology center are required to submit an accreditation certificate from one of the following:

- American College of Radiology or,
- [Intersocietal Accreditation Commission](#) or,
- The Joint Commission

For more information, reference the Provider Enrollment and Change Process Required Document Checklist on the BCBS of Michigan website (www.bcbsm.com/content/dam/public/Providers/Documents/enrollment/WP-11225-Req-Doc-Checklist.pdf) - Updated February 2023.

BCBS of North Carolina

Free Standing Radiology Facilities (Blue Medicare HMO and Blue Medicare PPO Networks Only)

Please include the following documents with your application:

- A copy of a NC license or Certificate of Need (if applicable per state or federal regulatory requirements)
- **One of the following accreditation certificates is required:**
 - American College of Radiology (ACR)
 - [Intersocietal Accreditation Commission \(IAC\)](#)
 - The Joint Commission (JCAHO)
- Medicare certification
- A general liability malpractice insurance face sheet. It must include current coverage dates, provider name, address, and limits of coverage (\$1 million per occurrence/\$3 million per aggregate) or letter attesting to all covered sites.

For more information on the credentialing process as related to accreditation, please visit www.bluecrossnc.com/providers/network-participation/manually-apply-credentialing-offline, scroll down to Part 2 >> Freestanding Radiology.

BlueCross BlueShield of Texas

Accreditation:

A current Certificate or Letter of Accreditation from one of the Accreditation Programs below:

CT / MRI/Nuclear Medicine/PET:

Accreditation from one of the following:

- The American College of Radiology (ACR);
- **The Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC); or**
- The Joint Commission (JC);

Nuclear Medicine Services:

Accreditation from one of the following is required:

- The American College of Radiology
- **The Intersocietal Accreditation Commission; or**
- The Joint Commission

Read more on the BCBSTX website at www.bcbstx.com/docs/provider/tx/network/credentialing/free-standing-imaging-cred-checklist.pdf (Updated 12/2022).

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (National)

Accreditation of Advanced Diagnostic Imaging Suppliers

I. Background

Section 135(a) of the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA) (P.L. 110-275) amended section 1834(e) of the Social Security Act (the Act). This amendment requires suppliers of the technical component of advanced diagnostic imaging (ADI) services to be accredited by a designated accrediting organization in order to receive Medicare reimbursement. This accreditation requirement for ADI suppliers was effective January 1, 2012. CMS has the statutory authority to designate accrediting organizations which accredit suppliers furnishing the technical component of ADI services. These requirements do not apply to hospitals or critical access hospitals.

Under section 1861(d) of the Act, an ADI supplier is defined as a physician or other practitioner, or facility such as an Independent Diagnostic Testing Facility that furnishes the technical component of ADI services. "Technical component" is defined as all non-physician work performed by an ADI supplier, including administrative and non-physician personnel time and use of the ADI equipment and facility.

Section 1834(e)(1)(B) of the Act defines "advanced diagnostic imaging" procedures as diagnostic magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computed tomography (CT), and nuclear medicine imaging procedures, such as positron emission tomography (PET). ADI procedures do not include x-ray, ultrasound, fluoroscopy procedures or diagnostic and screening mammography.

Note: Diagnostic and screening mammography are subject to oversight by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

II. Information about the Advanced Diagnostic Imaging Accrediting Organizations

- Application for CMS-designation as an ADI accrediting organization is a voluntary process. Application and re-application procedures are set forth at 42 CFR 414.68(c). (A link to these regulations is available in the "Related Links" section below).
- Each designated ADI accrediting organization may establish its own individual quality standards. At a minimum, these standards must address, but are not limited to, the following areas: staff qualifications; equipment standards and safety; safety of patients, family and staff; medical records; and patient privacy.
- While the standards among the designated ADI accrediting organizations may vary, each accrediting organization must demonstrate that its accreditation program standards meet or exceed the standards established by statute and in the Medicare regulations.
- Designated ADI accrediting organizations are private entities which charge fees for their accreditation services.
- Suppliers or other entities seeking additional information about CMS-designated ADI accrediting organizations and their accreditation programs may contact the accrediting organizations listed below.

III. CMS-designated ADI Accrediting Organizations:

- American College of Radiology (ACR)
- **Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC)**
- RadSite
- The Joint Commission (TJC)

For complete policy details, [please visit the CMS website](#)»

eviCore Healthcare (National)

Accreditations, Insurance, and Reporting Requirements:

A facility seeking to furnish the technical component of advanced diagnostic imaging services (MR, CT, PET or NM) is required to be accredited by one of the following: the American College of Radiology (ACR), the [Intersocietal Accreditation Commission \(IAC\)](#), The Joint Commission (TJC), or RadSite. Accreditation by the American Institute for Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM) or the American Society of Breast Surgeons (ASBS) is also acceptable for facilities in networks requiring ultrasound accreditation. Accreditation by the American Institute for Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM) or the American Society of Breast Surgeons (ASBS) is also acceptable for facilities in networks requiring ultrasound accreditation. ACR accreditation or state certification, is required for all mammography units. Accreditation is required at a modular level for each type of service rendered at the facility (for example: the cardiac module is required for all cardiac CT procedures). The requirements of the accrediting organization must be met at all times to maintain reimbursement. (See specific modular requirements under Equipment Requirements).

Cardiac PET - Absolute Quantitation of Myocardial Blood Flow (AQMBF) – Effective July 2023

eviCore along with the American Society of Nuclear Medicine, the American College of Cardiology, and the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging agree that to minimize the above listed variables, AQMBF should only be approved when performed by (all):

- **Laboratories that are Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC), American College of Radiology (ACR), or Joint Commission cardiac PET accredited.**
- Interpreting physician(s) must be Board certified in Nuclear Cardiology (CBNC), Nuclear Medicine (ABNM), or Radiology (ABR) and have additional training in measuring AQMBF.
- Individual laboratories should have a standard protocol (same tracer, camera, software, stressor, model etc.) for use for all patients.
- Reports should contain rest myocardial blood flow (MBF) and stress MBF in ml/g/min, and myocardial blood flow reserve (MBFR) reported as the ratio of stress to rest MBF (with normal limits).
- Laboratories should have the ability to perform rate-pressure-product (RPP) correction of resting MBF when resting MBF is elevated due to elevated resting RPP and include mention of the true measured resting MBF and MBFR as well as the RPP-corrected resting MBF and RPP-corrected MBFR in the conclusions of the report.
- Health plans will be responsible for verifying requirements

Read more in the [EviCore Cardiac Imaging Guidelines](#).

Quick Links:

- [eviCore Healthcare Network Facility Standards](#) (Effective 10-23-2020)

Emblem Health (New York)

Referenced from the Emblem Health Website

EmblemHealth reimburses cardiologists for approved echocardiography studies and nuclear studies, but only if they are performed at accredited locations. Pre-authorization rules apply where applicable.

Accreditation for **echocardiography** studies requires both:

1. Cardiology board certification of the physician by the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM), American Osteopathic Board of Internal Medicine (AOBIM), or National Board of Echocardiography (NBE) and
2. **Services rendered in laboratories accredited in transthoracic echocardiography by the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC Echocardiography).**

Accreditation for **nuclear studies** requires both:

1. Certification of the physician by the American Board of Radiology (ABR), American Board of Nuclear Medicine (ABNM) or Certification Board of Nuclear Cardiology (CBNC) and
2. **Services rendered in laboratories accredited for Nuclear/PET by the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC Nuclear/PET) or American College of Radiology (ACR-Nuclear Medicine).**

Accreditation for **PET studies** requires:

1. Certification of the physician by the American Board of Radiology (ABR) or American Board of Nuclear Medicine (ABNM) or American Board of Internal Medicine in cardiology, and
2. Certification of the physician by Certification Board of Nuclear Cardiology (CBNC), and
3. **Services rendered in laboratories accredited for PET by the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC Nuclear/PET w/cardiac imaging) or American College of Radiology (ACR in PET).**

Read more in the [Anthem Provider Manual >> Chapter 21: Outpatient Diagnostic Imaging Privileging](#).

Please note: The requirements listed above are only a portion of the complete reimbursement directive as related to echocardiography and nuclear/PET accreditation.

Florida Blue

Referenced from the Florida Blue Physicians and Provider Manual

Credentialing Requirements for Ancillary, Facility, Supplier Business, and Ambulatory Surgical Centers

Advanced Imaging Service (AIS) Providers Quality Program AIS include such services as CT scans, MRIs, Nuclear Cardiology, and PET scans whereas contracted providers including physicians and Independent Diagnostic Testing Centers (IDTCs that render diagnostic imaging services to our members are required to participate in the Diagnostic Imaging Quality Program, which is a component of our Quality Improvement Program.

Florida Blue administers the Diagnostic Imaging Quality Program. A component of our Quality Programs, accreditation through either American College of Radiology (ACR) or Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC) will be a requirement for obtaining a pre-authorization or Voluntary Predetermination for Select Services (Voluntary Predetermination for Select Services) from Florida Blue for all lines of business. Payment for AIS will be conditional based upon having met our Quality Programs criteria. This requirement applies to those physicians and non-hospital facilities that perform outpatient imaging studies and bill on a CMS-1500 Health Insurance Claim Form or its electronic equivalent. This includes, but is not limited to, office-based physicians and IDTCs that provide and bill for the technical or global component of advanced imaging services. This requirement does not apply to a bill submitted solely for professional services related to advanced imaging. To learn about diagnostic imaging utilization management programs, refer to the Florida Blue guidelines.

Accreditation can be obtained by contacting the ACR or IAC at the websites below.

- The American College of Radiology (ACR) www.acr.org/accreditation.aspx
- Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC) www.intersocietal.org

Please note: The above requirements list only a portion of the full reimbursement directive as related to accreditation. To review the complete [Florida Blue Provider Manual](#) (November 2022).

Highmark (DE, PA, WV)

Highmark, with the assistance of National Imaging Associates, Inc. (NIA), an affiliate of Magellan Health, Inc., has implemented a new imaging privileging process. On this page you will find Highmark's privileging requirements and online application instructions.

Privileging is only required for imaging provider sites that are physically located in the 29 counties of western Pennsylvania, the 21 counties of central Pennsylvania and the 13 counties in northeastern Pennsylvania. Highmark's indemnity members are excluded from this requirement.

- [Highmark Radiology Management Program Privileging Requirements](#) (Effective January 1, 2018)

Requirements Specific to Each Modality – Nuclear Cardiology, Nuclear Medicine, PET

Nuclear Cardiology:

- Practices must have achieved accreditation by the [Intersocietal Accreditation Commission \(IAC\) Nuclear/PET](#) or the American College of Radiology (ACR) upon submission of privileging application.

Nuclear Medicine:

- Nuclear medicine practices must achieve accreditation by ACR or [Intersocietal Accreditation Commission \(IAC\) Nuclear/PET](#) within 6 months of provisional approval.

Positron Emission Tomography (PET):

- Must have achieved accreditation by the [Intersocietal Accreditation Commission \(IAC\) Nuclear/PET](#) or the American College of Radiology (ACR) upon submission of privileging application.

Quick Links:

- [Organizational Provider Participation, Credentialing and Contracting Requirements](#)

Please note: This is only a portion of the Highmark Provider Privileging Requirements as related to the requirements for accreditation. For complete requirements, please review the Highmark Provider Privileging Requirements on the Highmark website at hbcbs.highmarkprc.com/Care-Management-Programs/Radiology-Management-ProgramPrivileging-Application-and-Requirements.

Horizon BCBS of New Jersey

Accreditation/Certification/Licensing Agencies per Modality for Radiology/Imaging Centers

Listed below are the accreditation/certification/licensing agencies for each noted modality. Mobile imaging services must meet the standards as noted for each applicable modality and are subject to the parameters set forth within the Standards for Diagnostic Radiology/Imaging Facilities/Freestanding-Office including Surgi-Centers and Diagnostic Dental - Radiographic Imaging Policy located on our portal at www.horizonblue.com.

CAT SCAN/CTA/CCTA

- Accrediting Agency: American College of Radiology (ACR); IAC CT (formerly ICACTL)
- Licensing Agency: NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), or Department of Health and Senior Services Standards for Licensure of Ambulatory Care Facilities

MRI/MRA

- Accrediting Agency: American College of Radiology (ACR); IAC MRI (formerly ICAMRL)
- Licensing Agency: Federal Drug Administration (FDA) or Department of Health and Senior Services Standards for Licensure of Ambulatory Care Facilities

NUCLEAR CARDIOLOGY

- Accrediting Agency: American College of Radiology (ACR); [IAC Nuclear/PET \(formerly ICANL\)](#)
- Licensing Agency: NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), or Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)

ULTRASOUND

- Accrediting Agency: American College of Radiology (ACR); American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM); IAC Vascular Testing (Formerly ICAVL)

For complete details, visit www.horizonblue.com/providers/policies-procedures/policies/administrative-policies/credentialing-and-recredentialing-policy-ancillary-and-managed-long-term-support-service-mltss/standards-participation >> Radiology/Imaging Centers including Mobile X-Ray/Imaging Service Providers.

Independence Blue Cross Group (Philadelphia and Southeastern PA)

Network Participation

Organizational providers are required to be Medicare-certified and accredited by a third-party organization recognized by Independence. View the [recognized accrediting bodies](#). Begin the [organizational provider credentialing process](#).

Provider Type	Accrediting or Certifying Organizations*	Accreditation Required
Portable/Mobile X-Ray	ACR, Joint Commission, IAC	YES
Radiology – Advanced Diagnostic Imaging	ACR, IAC, Joint Commission	YES

**At the Plan's discretion, the Plan may recognize any approved accrediting organization deemed acceptable by CMS.*

For complete details about Independence Network Participation and Credentialing Program (Updated 3-2019), please visit www.ibx.com/providers/interactive_tools/credentialing/index.html.

Minnesota House Bill 2276

Effective August 1, 2013, Minnesota facilities and hospitals that furnish advanced diagnostic imaging (ADI) services (inclusive of Nuclear/PET, MRI and CT) must be accredited by an organization approved by the United States Department of Health and Human Services in order to receive reimbursement. **The [Intersocietal Accreditation Commission \(IAC\)](#) has been designated as an approved accrediting organization.** Here are the major points of the bill related to accreditation, facilities should be aware of:

SECTION 1 (SUBDIVISION 2)

Accreditation required. (a)(1) *Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b), advanced diagnostic imaging services eligible for reimbursement from any source, including, but not limited to, the individual receiving such services and any individual or group insurance contract, plan, or policy delivered in this state, including, but not limited to, private health insurance plans, workers' compensation insurance, motor vehicle insurance, the State Employee Group Insurance Program (SEGIP), and other state health care programs, shall be reimbursed only if the facility at which the service has been conducted and processed is accredited by one of the following entities:*

(i) *American College of Radiology (ACR);*

(ii) **[Intersocietal Accreditation Commission \(IAC\)](#);**

(iii) *the Joint Commission; or*

(iv) *other relevant accreditation organization designated by the secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to United States Code, title 42, section 1395M.*

(2) *All accreditation standards recognized under this section must include, but are not limited to:*

(i) *provisions establishing qualifications of the physician;*

(ii) *standards for quality control and routine performance monitoring by a medical physicist;*

(iii) *qualifications of the technologist, including minimum standards of supervised clinical experience;*

(iv) *guidelines for personnel and patient safety; and*

(v) *standards for initial and ongoing quality control using clinical image review and quantitative testing.*

(b) *Any facility that performs advanced diagnostic imaging services and is eligible to receive reimbursement for such services from any source in paragraph (a)(1) must obtain accreditation by August 1, 2013. Thereafter, all facilities that provide advanced diagnostic imaging services in the state must obtain accreditation prior to commencing operations and must, at all times, maintain accreditation with an accrediting organization as provided in paragraph (a).*

Subd. 3. Reporting. (a) *Advanced diagnostic imaging facilities and providers of advanced diagnostic imaging services must annually report to the commissioner demonstration of accreditation as required under this section.*

(b) *The commissioner may promulgate any rules necessary to administer the reporting required under paragraph (a).* [View the full requirements for bill](#)»

If your facility is not granted accreditation through one of the approved organizations by August 1, 2013, it will not receive reimbursement. Your facility must, at all times, maintain accreditation with an accrediting organization.

[Read more on the Minnesota Department of Health website](#)»

TriWest Healthcare Alliance

Provider Credentialing Requirements (Updated July 2020)

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) may perform random onsite visits to provider locations through coordination with TriWest to inspect physical operations and/or review records of Veterans, speak with Veterans, review quality and completeness of accreditation, certification and credentialing, privileging and licensing documentation.

Additional Credentialing Requirements for Clinics/Facilities

Independent Physiological Lab (includes Cardiac Cath Lab and PET Center)	Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Centers shall be accredited by the American College of Radiology (ACR), the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC) or The Joint Commission (TJC) or RadSite
Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), Freestanding - Facility	MRI and Breast MRI – Accredited by the ACR, IAC, TJC or RadSite
Facility of Portable XRay	Accredited by the ACR or IAC
Outpatient Facility Providing Advanced Diagnostic Imaging	Accredited by the ACR, IAC, TJC or RadSite

For complete details, [please visit the TriWest Healthcare website](#)»

UnitedHealthcare (National)

Imaging Accreditation

UnitedHealthcare is committed to ensuring that all of our members have access to quality health care, including medical imaging services. We believe patients deserve assurance that equipment, technologists and physician practices are in compliance with professional society-developed performance standards for CT, MRI, PET, nuclear medicine/cardiology and echocardiography procedures (collectively referred to as "Advanced Imaging Studies").

If you perform Advanced Imaging Studies and bill on a Form CMS 1500, or the electronic equivalent, you must obtain accreditation from one of the accrediting agencies listed below.

- American College of Radiology (ACR)
- [Intersocietal Accreditation Commission \(IAC\)](#)
- RadSite
- The Joint Commission (TJC)

Accreditation is required for the following Advanced Imaging Studies:

- CT scan
- Echocardiography
- MRI
- **Nuclear Medicine / Cardiology**
- **PET scan**

What You Can Expect

- The Imaging Accreditation requirement applies to global and technical service claims.
- The accreditation process can take up to 9 months to complete.
- Accreditation requires submitting an application and fulfilling accreditation standards.

*Pursuant to UnitedHealthcare's Imaging Accreditation Program, we require accreditation for Advanced Imaging Studies. **At this time, however, UnitedHealthcare will not require accreditation as a condition of eligibility for reimbursement, and therefore will not administratively deny claims for Advanced Imaging Studies based on lack of accreditation.** When a decision is made to activate the claim denial component of the Imaging Accreditation Program, we will communicate the effective date to you. UnitedHealthcare remains committed to advancing the quality and safety of imaging services through the Imaging Accreditation Program and will keep you apprised of any changes to our program.*

Learn more at www.uhcprovider.com/en/resource-library/Join-Our-Network/Imaging-Accreditation.html.

UnitedHealthcare (California Ancillary Service Care Providers)

Credentialing is not required for Diagnostic Radiology facilities, however, **facilities must be Medicare Certified, accredited with the American College of Radiology or the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission, in order to participate in the network.**

Learn more at www.uhcprovider.com/en/resource-library/Join-Our-Network/California-Ancillary-Service-Care-Providers.html

UnitedHealthCare - Oxford Health Plans (CT, NJ, NY)

Accreditation Requirements for Participating Providers (Effective January 1, 2023)

Note: Hospitals are currently excluded from the accreditation requirements listed below.

All MRI, PET, CT, nuclear medicine, and ultrasound studies must be performed on an American College of Radiology (ACR), American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM), **Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC)**, RadSite, or The Joint Commission (TJC) accredited unit or at accredited facilities.

Refer to the Administrative Policy titled [Accreditation Requirements for Radiology Services](#).

In diagnostic imaging, accreditation programs have emerged as key initiatives to advance the quality and safety of imaging studies. It is important that Members receive services from facilities whose equipment, technologists, and physicians are in compliance with established accreditation performance standards.

All freestanding facilities and physician offices performing outpatient radiology advanced imaging studies in the eviCore imaging network are required to obtain and maintain accreditation as a condition for reimbursement for the below services. Radiologists seeking reimbursement for advanced imaging must have the laboratory/facility accreditation on file.

Provider Specialty	Accreditation in Appropriate Module	Modality/Procedure
Radiology Facilities	ACR	MRI, Breast MRI, CT, Nuclear Medicine*, PET, Ultrasound, Breast Ultrasound, Mammography, Stereotactic Biopsy
	AIUM	Ultrasound, Breast Ultrasound
	ASBS	Breast Ultrasound, Stereotactic Breast Biopsy
	IAC	MRI, CT, Nuclear Medicine*, PET, Ultrasound
	RadSite (except cardiac procedures)	MRI, CT, Nuclear Medicine (SPECT)*, PET
	TJC	MRI, CT, Nuclear Medicine*, PET, Ultrasound, X-ray, Breast Ultrasound, Stereotactic Breast Biopsy

Note: *Nuclear Medicine procedures noted with an (*) are only reimbursable to radiologists when they have the appropriate certification.

Please Note: The details above list only a small portion of UnitedHealthcare's requirements as related to accreditation only. For complete NA requirements, visit the [UHC website](#).

Wellmark BCBS (Iowa, South Dakota)

Referenced from the Wellmark Provider Guide

Facility/Entity Accreditation/CMS Requirements

All facilities/entities must have at least one of the following licenses/certifications/accreditations to meet credentialing requirements:

Radiology/Imaging Center (including, but not limited to, the following types of centers):

- General Radiology
- CT, CTA
- Echocardiography
- Mammography
- MRI, MRA
- **Nuclear Cardiology**
- **PET Scan**
- Radiation Oncology
- Ultrasound
- Portable X-Ray

Centers offering any of the services listed immediately below **must be accredited** by ACR or one of the accrediting agencies of the [Intersocietal Accreditation Commission](#) (IAC Vascular Testing, IAC Echocardiography, IAC Nuclear/PET, IAC MRI or IAC CT):

- CT
- CTA
- **Nuclear Cardiology**
- Echocardiography
- **PET**
- **PET/CT**
- MRI
- MRA

If the center does not offer any of the services above, it must be accredited by AAAHC, The Joint Commission, ACR, or one of the accreditation agencies of the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC Vascular Testing, IAC Echocardiography, IAC Nuclear/PET, IAC MRI or IAC CT).

Please note: The above requirements list only a portion of the full reimbursement directive. Please refer to the [Wellmark Provider Guide](#) (updated Jan 2023) for additional information on the complete requirements and for specific requirements for other modalities.