

CODING POLICY	Duplicate Diagnostic Test Interpretations
Effective Date: 01/2023 Original Effective Date: 07/2021	Coding Policy Number: MC 08.0
	Committee Approved Date: 01/23
Approved by: Coding Policy Review Committee	

SCOPE:

Providence Health Plan, Providence Health Assurance, Providence Plan Partners, and Ayin Health Solutions as applicable (referred to individually as “Company” and collectively as “Companies”).

APPLIES TO:

All lines of business

POLICY STATEMENT

- I. When Company receives charges for test interpretations (including, but not limited to, Pathology, Radiology, and EKG) from the treating provider (provider who is managing the patient’s care) as well as from a specialist in the field whose interpretation was requested by the facility or by the treating provider, Company will pay only the specialist whose interpretation was requested. Payment for review of diagnostic tests performed during the course of treatment is included in payment for E/M services or other services billed by the treating provider.
- II. When Company receives charges for test interpretations from two specialists, Company will pay the first claim received. Company will allow payment for multiple interpretations from different specialists only if the documentation supports medical necessity for separate interpretations.
- III. In all cases, a separate written report is required to support payment for test interpretations. A summary of findings in the body of the operative note or progress note may not be billed separately as an interpretation.

PROCEDURE:

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When Company receives multiple claims for the same interpretation, generally the first claim received is the claim that is paid, regardless of the provider's specialty. When duplicate interpretations are detected, Company will pay only for the interpretation billed by the specialist whose review is requested and will request a refund if a claim was previously paid to the treating provider.

REFERENCES

1. American Medical Association
2. CMS / Medicare Rules and Regulations
3. Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Guidelines
4. Providence Health Plan Clinical Coding Edits