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 **STAT Bulletin**
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To: MRI Radiology Facilities and Hospitals
Contract Affected: All Lines of Business

Multiple Imaging Code Edit Change

Effective September 15, 2009, BlueCross BlueShield of Western New York will implement a claim process change resulting in a coding edit for the technical component (TC) of multiple imaging services for CT, CTA, MRI, MRA and non-obstetrical ultrasound codes.

What is the multiple coding edit?
The coding edit is a payment reduction when multiple images of contiguous body parts are taken in a single session. The payment reduction also applies to second and subsequent procedures.

Are both the professional and technical components affected?
The professional component (PC) of the billed code will not be affected. The reduction applies only to the technical component (TC) of the radiology code. We consult with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that a portion of the technical component is furnished **once** for the entire series of images.

What is the reduction amount?
Consistent with industry standards, the multiple imaging coding edit will apply a 50 percent payment reduction to the technical component when multiple images from the same diagnostic imaging family are provided during a single patient session.

Why is this coding edit being implemented?
When multiple images from the same diagnostic imaging family are taken in a single session, a portion of the technical component (including clinical labor, supplies and equipment) is furnished **once** for the entire series of images. This coding edit will eliminate duplication of payment. CMS, as well as other health plans, have similar programs in place.

What diagnostic families are affected?
A list of diagnostic imaging codes subject to the multiple imaging coding edit is attached to this bulletin.

NOTE: Claims processed after the implementation date, regardless of service date, will process according to this new edit. All existing pre-authorization requirements apply.

Questions?
If you have any questions regarding this bulletin, please contact our Provider Service Department at 1-800-936-0022.

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