

SUBJECT: TELERADIOLOGY SECTION: CREDENTIALING POLICY NUMBER: CR-30	EFFECTIVE DATE: 1/05
<i>Applies to all products administered by the Plan except when changed by contract</i>	

Policy Statement: The Plan recognizes the occasional need of a participating facility or radiology group (“Participating Radiologist”) to utilize subcontracted radiologists located outside of the Plan’s service areas to interpret/consult on radiology images obtained by the Participating Radiologist (“Teleradiologist”). This policy is intended to address the credentialing of those Teleradiologists for purposes of providing teleradiology services to Plan’s members, assuring access, continuity of care, and timely interpretations for plan members.

Definition:

Teleradiology – is the electronic transmission of radiologic images from one location to another for the purpose of interpretation and/or consultation.

Process: A Teleradiologist who meets the below criteria would be eligible to apply for Plan credentialing/recredentialing:

1. Teleradiologist is required by a credentialed Participating Radiologist to interpret or consult on radiologic images of a Plan’s member;
2. The Participating Radiologist has contracted with the Teleradiologist to provide radiology services;
3. The radiologic images would be transmitted electronically from Participating Radiologist to Teleradiologist;
4. Teleradiologist is located outside of Plan’s service area and does not have a participating provider agreement with Plan;
5. Teleradiologist’s services will be billed to Plan by the Plan participating facility or radiology group, and not by Teleradiologist;
6. Teleradiologist shall have no contact with Plan member;
7. Teleradiologist shall meet all of the Plan’s credentialing criteria for radiologists;
8. Teleradiologist shall maintain an active, unencumbered licensure appropriate to the delivery of radiologic services at both the location (state/country) of the Plan participating facility or radiology group (“Transmitting site”) and Teleradiologist’s state and/country (“Receiving site”). For example, if

the participating radiology group in the plan service area, such as New York, uses a teleradiologist in Australia, such teleradiologist must maintain licensure in both New York and Australia.

9. Teleradiologist shall maintain American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) certification by the American Board of Radiology; certification from the American Osteopathic Board of Radiology (AOA) or certification by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons (RCPS) of Canada.
10. Teleradiologist shall maintain professional liability policies, as required by the Plan, to ensure malpractice coverage at both the Transmitting site and Receiving sites (state or jurisdiction). For example, if the participating radiology group in the plan service area, such as New York, uses a teleradiologist in Australia, such teleradiologist must maintain liability insurance in both New York and Australia.
11. Teleradiologist shall provide services under the general supervision of a physician in the Plan participating facility or radiology group as required or necessary by the Plan in addition to those required by appropriate supervisory entities. If the local practice loses Plan credentials, the teleradiologist will lose plan credentials as well.
12. Teleradiologist shall comply with all the terms of, and be subject to, the Participating Radiologist's agreement with Plan.
13. Teleradiologist shall participate in on-site quality assurance programs and as required by Plan.
14. Teleradiologist shall maintain medical staff membership if employed by a hospital outside of Plan's service area.
15. Teleradiologist shall maintain any patient files stored at the Receiving site in a manner consistent with Plan's policies;
16. Teleradiologist shall provide services in such a way that the location of Teleradiologist is transparent to the Plan's practitioner who ordered the radiologic images ("Ordering Practitioner");
17. Teleradiologist shall be accessible and respond in a timely manner to the Ordering Practitioner as if the Teleradiologist were on-site locally;
18. Teleradiologist shall provide assurances to the Plan that the Ordering Practitioner will have convenient access to speak with the Teleradiologist.

In addition, Teleradiologist shall provide evidence to Plan of the following with respect to the Receiving site:

1. Teleradiology systems must provide network and software security protocols to protect the confidentiality of patient identity and imaging data consistent with applicable laws and regulations at the Transmitting site and Receiving Site.
2. The Receiving site must have access to any additional studies needed to make a decision and prior examinations must be retrievable in an appropriate time frame as the quality of patient care may depend on timely availability of image interpretation.

Approval of credentials, if granted by the Plan's Credentialing Committee, will be for a period not to exceed three years with an annual update on the Teleradiologist's compliance with this Policy.

The Plan's Credentialing Committee may receive and review applications sought as an exception to this Policy.

Committee Approvals:

Corporate Credentialing Committee: 12/13/2004, 9/20/06, 6/18/08, 6/16/10, 6/20/12, 6/18/14, rev 8/20/14, 9/21/16 rev; 9/26/2018 (30 day approval); 10/17/18 (60 day approval); 12/19/18; rev 5/15/19;

Source: no previous formal policy