

FAQ Second Opinion Radiology Interpretations

The Department of Radiology is now offering **formal 2nd opinion interpretations on X-ray, CT and MR** exams performed anywhere outside of Brigham Health (BH)/Dana Farber (DF)

Below are a few questions you might have:

1) Can I continue to upload outside imaging without interpretation?

Yes. There is no change to our current practice allowing any outside imaging exam to be uploaded to Brigham Health PACS. However, if you wish to have the exam interpreted by a radiologist, we recommend that you place an order in eCare/Epic for a formal 2nd opinion interpretation. Our intent is to provide more options for how you manage your patient's care.

2) How do I request a formal 2nd opinion interpretation?

You make this request by entering an order in eCare/Epic. The images are uploaded and the order is linked to the images. Many clinics already do this today for exams that are not officially interpreted. The Department of Radiology will liaison with clinics and providers in the coming months to ensure they understand the process. ***As always, the Image Service Center can service these requests as well.*** We have also attached a training document (how to import radiology images from a CD) and Epic tip sheet (how to create an order) here to assist you. Orders will require a provider signature (or co-signature if entered by support staff).

3) What exams are eligible for a formal 2nd opinion interpretation?

Any x-ray, CT or MR performed within the past 6 months at a non-BH/DF facility is eligible for a 2nd interpretation by a BH radiologist if there is not a more recent exam of the same type performed within BH/DF. The imaging exam and formal 2nd opinion interpretation will be viewable in eCare/Epic just like any other imaging exam performed within BH/DF.

4) What if the same study has been performed more recently, or will be performed at BH within the next day?

If the same study has been or will be performed at BH within the next day, the outside exam will be used as a comparison only, and a formal 2nd opinion interpretation will not be rendered on the outside exam.

5) Will the insurer and/or patient be billed for the formal 2nd opinion interpretation?

Yes. Only a professional billing code will be issued for the services rendered (there is no technical service or fee). We will follow the same approach to professional billing as we would for any other service provided by the radiology department. The insurer will be billed. Patients may have a copay or deductible. It's important you communicate this to your patients in advance of requesting a formal 2nd opinion interpretation.

6) How do formal 2nd opinion interpretations relate to other forms of radiology consultation?

The Department of Radiology offers several different types of consultation to meet the diverse needs of its patients and providers. The new formal 2nd opinion interpretations offered at BH is separate and distinct from the long-standing real-time radiology consultations staffed at Dana Farber, where radiologists are embedded with oncologists actively seeing patients in clinic. Formal 2nd opinion interpretations are also separate and distinct from e-consults offered via eCare/Epic,

which provide a means for asynchronous communication between different medical specialties for minor, non-urgent questions.

7) Where can I go with questions I might have?

For technical questions or concerns, please contact Maria Damiano (mdamiano@partners.org). For clinical questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Stephen Ledbetter (sledbetter@bwh.harvard.edu).