

cmi_171677

Title	Radiopharmaceuticals and Contrast Materials		
Number	CP.PP.430.v1.0		
Last Approval Date	03/12/26	Original Effective Date	07/03/26
Cross Reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract Exclusions/Disallowed Charges – Inpatient and Outpatient Facility Services 		

Coverage of any service is determined by a member’s eligibility, benefit limits for the service or services rendered and the application of the Plan’s Medical Policy. Final payment is subject to the application of claims adjudication edits common to the industry and the **Plan’s professional or facility services claims coding policies**. Reimbursement is restricted to the provider's scope of practice as well as the fee schedule applicable to that provider.

Purpose/ Application	To define radiopharmaceutical or contrast charges which are considered not separately reimbursable by the Plan when submitted on facility claim.
Scope	Applies to all Premera Blue Cross, Premera Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alaska, LifeWise Health Plan of Washington, LifeWise Assurance Company, and Premera Blue Cross HMO lines of business and products.
Definitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Radiopharmaceutical Material: A radioactive pharmaceutical, nuclide, or other chemical used for therapeutic or diagnostic interventions. Contrast Material: Dyes or other substances that temporarily change the way x-rays or other imaging tools interact with the body.
Policy	<p>Effective for dates of service on and after July 3, 2026 the health plan does not allow separate reimbursement for certain diagnostic radiopharmaceuticals, contrast materials, and/or media in a facility setting.</p> <p>Payment for diagnostic radiopharmaceuticals and contrast materials is considered inclusive to the major procedure performed.</p>
Codes and Coding Guidelines	<p>The below codes are considered part of the underlying exam and will be denied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A9573- Injection, gadopicalenal, 1 ml A9575- Injection, gadoterate meglumine, 0.1 ml A9576- Injection, gadoteridol, (prohance multipack), per ml A9577- Injection, gadobenate dimeglumine (MultiHance), per ml A9579- Injection, gadolinium-based magnetic resonance contrast agent, not otherwise specified (NOS) A9581- Injection, gadoxetate disodium, 1 ml A9585- Injection, gadobutrol, 0.1 ml Q9953- Injection, iron-based magnetic resonance contrast agent Q9954- Oral magnetic resonance contrast agent, per 100 ml Q9957- Injection, perflutren lipid microspheres, per ml Q9958- High osmolar contrast material, up to 149 mg/ml iodine concentration, per ml Q9960- High osmolar contrast material, 200-249 mg/ml iodine concentration, per ml Q9961- High osmolar contrast material, 250-299 mg/ml iodine concentration, per ml Q9963- High osmolar contrast material, 350-399 mg/ml iodine concentration, per ml

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q9965- Low osmolar contrast material, 100-199 mg/ml iodine concentration, per ml • Q9966- Low osmolar contrast material, 200-299 mg/ml iodine concentration, per ml
Violations of Policy	Violations of this policy by any party that enters into a written arrangement with the Plan may result in increased auditing and monitoring, performance guarantee contractual penalties, and/or termination of the contract. Disciplinary actions will be determined by the Plan.
Exceptions	Exceptions to the policy may also be made where a provider contract dictates otherwise.
Laws, Regulations & Standards	N/A
References and Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Medical Association’s Current Procedural Terminology (AMA/CPT) Codebook • CMS Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Level II codes • CMS Publication 100-04, Chapter 17, section 90-Claims Processing Rules for Hospital Outpatient Billing and Payment • Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS)

Policy Owner Review	Payment Integrity Oversight Committee	
Contact	Any questions regarding the contents of this policy or its application should be directed to the Payment Integrity Department	
Annual Review Dates	03/12/26	
Version History	03/12/26	Creation of new policy.