

# High Tech Imaging Services – Radiology Quality Initiative (RQI) Program

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois (BCBSIL) contracted with American Imaging Management, Inc. (AIM) to implement a radiology quality program. Ordering physicians must obtain RQI numbers from AIM for High Tech Imaging Services.

Whose Responsibility is it to obtain the RQI number?	What places of service are required to verify that a RQI number was obtained?	For what services are RQI numbers required?	Is the RQI number required for all BCBSIL products?	Is it necessary to obtain a RQI number for BlueCard members?
<p>The ordering physician must prospectively obtain the RQI number.</p> <p>The RQI number is valid for 30 days. <b>Note:</b> There is no grace period if the service is not performed.</p> <p>The performing imaging providers cannot obtain a RQI number but should verify that an RQI number was issued prior to performing the service.</p>	<p>The RQI number is required when the place of service is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Freestanding imaging centers</li> <li>▪ Hospital Outpatient</li> <li>▪ In office use of physician owned equipment</li> </ul> <p>The RQI number is not required when the place of services is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hospital Inpatient</li> <li>▪ Emergency Room</li> <li>▪ Urgent Care Centers</li> <li>▪ Immediate Care Centers</li> <li>▪ 23 Hour Observation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ CT scans</li> <li>▪ CTA scans</li> <li>▪ MRI, MRS and MRA scans</li> <li>▪ Nuclear cardiology studies</li> <li>▪ Pet scans</li> </ul>	<p>The following products require a RQI number:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ BlueChoice Select</li> <li>▪ Illinois PPO</li> <li>▪ BlueAdvantage PPO</li> <li>▪ FEP</li> <li>▪ Labor groups</li> </ul> <p>These products do not require a RQI number:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ HMO Illinois</li> <li>▪ BlueAdvantage HMO</li> </ul>	<p>Some BCBS Plans do have radiology management programs. A few examples of plans that have programs are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ North Carolina</li> <li>▪ Louisiana</li> <li>▪ Iowa</li> <li>▪ IBC (Independence BlueCross Philadelphia)</li> </ul> <p>Some of these programs are tied to member benefits, therefore it is important to check benefits prior to service. This information will be given when you verify eligibility and benefits for out-of-area members at (800) 676-BLUE(2583)</p>
<p><b>How does the physician obtain a RQI number?</b></p>	<p><b>How do hospital outpatient department staff know if a RQI number was issued?</b></p>	<p><b>Do providers have to check eligibility and benefits when a RQI number was obtained?</b></p>	<p><b>If a RQI is not obtained is the payment of the claim affected?</b></p>	<p><b>How do we determine if a BlueCard member's plan has a radiology management program?</b></p>
<p>The physician may access the AIM Web site: <a href="http://www.americanimaging.net">www.americanimaging.net</a></p> <p>The physician may also call the AIM Call Center at (866) 455-8415</p>	<p>Hospitals have access to the AIM Website; enter the member name and identification to obtain the RQI number.</p>	<p>Yes, providers must verify eligibility and benefits prior to rendering services.</p>	<p>At this time, the adjudication and payment of the claim are not affected if the RQI number was not obtained.</p>	<p>Provider should call the BlueCard eligibility, benefits and pre-certification phone number: (800) 676-BLUE(2583)</p>

Rev. 12/08