

Why Should Patients Pay More for the Same Radiology Tests?

Open MRI

of
New England, Inc.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of RI (BCBSRI) and some other insurers categorize radiology outpatient and hospital providers for their commercial health plans into different expense categories known as Tiers. When Rhode Island imaging facilities and hospitals are categorized as BCBSRI Tier 2, patients pay significantly higher co-pays and deductibles for the same out patient radiology tests than a Tier 1 facility such as [Open MRI of New England](#) or [Advanced Radiology](#).

These cost differences can have a significant impact on patient budgets for their office visit copays and for other medical services.

Approximate **additional** out of pocket expense for Tier2 vs Tier1 towards annual plan deductible for most BCBSRI commercial plans*

MRI Brain with and w/o contrast	+500
MRI Lumbar spine w/o contrast	+300
MRI Knee	+300
CT Chest	+100
CT Neck	+150
Ultrasound, abdomen	+80
Ultrasound, pelvis	+80
X-Ray Chest	+20
X-Ray head/skull	+20

Additional out of pocket copay expense for Tier2 vs Tier1 for BCBSRI Vantage Blue Select plans

MRI tests	+400
CT tests	+400
X-Ray and Ultrasound tests	+100

*Cost differences are approximate and obtained from the insurer's published cost calculator as of 8/16. The information shown is subject to changes and variations.

Scheduling Center:
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ADVANCED
Radiology, Inc.

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