

Obtaining medical imaging reports

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Introduction

Medical imaging investigations are often requested by treating practitioners to confirm a diagnosis or identify new or pre existing conditions. Medical imaging may also be required to assist with the treatment of a condition, such as ultrasound

guided injections. When imaging takes place in relation to the compensable condition, Comcare should receive a copy of the report on the procedure and findings.

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Consideration of inappropriate medical imaging

Medical imaging can be an effective tool to confirm a diagnosis, identify new or pre-existing conditions, or assist with the treatment of a condition. However, unnecessary or excessive investigations may have a detrimental effect on an employee's recovery and well-being.

There may be instances when a treating practitioner will need to consider whether the potential benefits of imaging outweighs the risks, such as:

- when serious pathology is suspected
- the risk to the employee of not having the imaging conducted
- whether imaging is likely to improve the overall health outcome for the employee
- whether the results are likely to change the management of the employee's condition
- when there has been an unsatisfactory response to conservative care or unexplained progression of signs and symptoms.

Note: If you are unsure whether imaging investigation is appropriate, you should discuss with the Injury Manager or the [Clinical Panel](#) for further discussion.

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Procedure for actioning a medical imaging report

Step 1: Determine Liability for medical treatment

Refer to [Determining liability for medical treatment](#).

Step 2: Communicate the Decision

Refer to [Communicating a medical treatment determination](#).

Step 3: Update Pracsys

Your comment should include the results of the imaging and if awaiting further information from the employee, add a note to that effect.

Step 4: Authorise or decline payment of the report in Pracsys.

Refer to the [Processing an invoice](#) page for the steps on processing the invoice for the imaging report.

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