

# Breast Insurance Codes

For your reference, below are the insurance codes needed to order a Breast MRI scan and biopsy.

As of January 2019, the CPT codes have been changed to the codes listed here:

SCAN	CPT CODE
MRI Breast, without contrast; unilateral	77046
MRI Breast, without contrast; bilateral	77047
MRI Breast, Without and with contrast, include CAD when performed; unilateral	77048
MRI Breast, Without and with contrast, include CAD when performed; bilateral	77049
BIOPSY	
MR guidance for needle placement	77021
Biopsy, breast, with placement of breast localization device(s) (e.g., clip, metallic pellet), when performed, and imaging of the biopsy specimen, when performed, percutaneous; first lesion, including stereotactic guidance	19081
Biopsy, breast, with placement of breast localization device(s) (e.g., clip, metallic pellet), when performed, and imaging of the biopsy specimen, when performed, percutaneous; each additional lesion, including stereotactic guidance	19082
Biopsy, breast, with placement of breast localization device(s) (e.g., clip, metallic pellet), when performed, and imaging of the biopsy specimen, when performed, percutaneous; first lesion, including ultrasound guidance	19083
Biopsy, breast, with placement of breast localization device(s) (e.g., clip, metallic pellet), when performed, and imaging of the biopsy specimen, when performed, percutaneous; each additional lesion, including ultrasound guidance	19084
Biopsy, breast, with placement of breast localization device(s) (e.g., clip, metallic pellet), when performed, and imaging of the biopsy specimen, when performed, percutaneous; first lesion, including magnetic resonance guidance	19085
Biopsy, breast, with placement of breast localization device(s) (e.g., clip, metallic pellet), when performed, and imaging of the biopsy specimen, when performed, percutaneous; each additional lesion, including magnetic resonance guidance	19086

Getting prior authorization for a breast MRI is the first step to getting your patient scanned, and it can be the most challenging. The information provided here is a helpful resource when submitting authorization forms to the insurance provider.

## Criteria for approval: An MRI of the Breast is considered medically necessary and will likely get approved for prior authorization if the patient meets the criteria below:

- Screening for breast cancer in patients:
  - With a known BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutation
  - At high risk of BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutation due to a known presence of the mutation in relatives
  - Who have Li-Fraumeni syndrome or Cowden syndrome or Bannayan-Riley-Ruvalcaba syndrome or who have a first-degree relative with one of these syndromes
  - At high risk (lifetime risk about 20% to 25% or greater) of developing breast cancer as identified by models that are largely defined by family history, including:
    - Personal history of ovarian carcinoma<sup>1</sup>
    - Family history of ovarian carcinoma
  - Who received radiation therapy to the chest between 10 and 30 years of age
- Detection of a suspected occult breast primary tumor in patients with axillary nodal adenocarcinoma (i.e., negative mammography and physical exam)
- Presurgical planning in patients with locally advanced breast cancer before and after completion of neoadjuvant chemotherapy to permit tumor localization and characterization
- To determine the presence of pectoralis major muscle/chest wall invasion in patients with posteriorly located tumors
- To evaluate the contralateral breast in those patients with a new diagnosis of breast cancer who have normal clinical and mammographic findings in the contralateral breast
- Preoperative tumor mapping of the involved (ipsilateral) breast to evaluate the presence of multicentric disease in patients with clinically localized breast cancer who are candidates for breast conservation therapy
- To evaluate a documented abnormality of the breast prior to obtaining an MRI-guided biopsy when there is documentation that other methods, such as palpation or ultrasound, are not able to localize the lesion for biopsy
- To evaluate the extent of ill-defined breast cancer, especially in women with radiographically dense breasts, and evaluate a suspicious clinical finding, that is not clearly defined or localized after mammography and ultrasound



## Criteria that may be denied: An MRI of the Breast is considered investigational and will likely get denied for prior authorization if the patient meets the criteria below:

- As a screening technique in average-risk patients
- As a screening technique for the detection of breast cancer when the sensitivity of mammography is limited (e.g., dense breasts, breast implants, scarring after treatment for breast cancer)
- For diagnosis of low-suspicion findings on conventional testing not indicated for immediate biopsy and referred for short-interval follow-up
- For diagnosis of a suspicious breast lesion in order to avoid biopsy
- To determine response during neoadjuvant chemotherapy in patients with locally advanced breast cancer
- For evaluation of residual tumor in patients with positive margins after lumpectomy, and MRI of the contralateral breast in a patient who is not at high risk for breast cancer and who is being evaluated for a suspicious clinical finding in the ipsilateral breast that is not clearly defined or localized after mammography and ultrasound

If something is not covered, you have the option to ask for individual consideration. This takes a bit longer, but there is a chance that the scan may be approved.

Source: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts for reference only. This list may not be complete for all insurances and does not guarantee approval or payment by the insurance carrier.

**Note:** Breast biopsy services are available and require preauthorization, as they are considered surgical procedures. The diagnosis does not guarantee approval or payment by the insurance carrier.



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As an advocate for your patient, you want them to have the very best course of treatments. When a patient needs a breast MRI scan, getting authorization can be challenging. Insurance providers are extremely specific about what is required for approval, and missing one detail can mean denial. Below are some helpful tips for getting prior authorization for a Breast MRI for your patients.

### Quick Tips to getting prior authorization for Breast MRI scans:

- Be sure your patient has a complete pretesting workup
- Keep in mind that a diagnosis of strong family history of breast cancer must be in regard to a first degree relative
- Many insurance companies will not approve coverage for a breast MRI if the patient diagnosis is 'dense breasts' in this instance, you may want to try for individual consideration
- If something is not covered, you have the option to ask for individual consideration, this takes a bit longer, but there is a chance that the scan may be approved

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Shields offers Breast MRI services at eighteen locations throughout New England:

- Boston
- Brighton
- Brockton
- Dartmouth
- Greenfield
- Hyannis
- Leominster
- Lowell
- Marlborough
- New Bedford
- Newburyport
- Palmer
- Springfield
- Weymouth
- Woburn
- Worcester
- Lewiston, ME
- Topsham, ME

## Breast MRI Pricing & Financial Resources

The price of a Breast MRI depends on insurance coverage. On average, Shields can save patients up to 60%\* while providing the very highest-quality MRI technology and experience.

### Shields Patient Financial Services Team: 1-877-712-3075; M-F, 9 a.m.– 5 p.m.

- **Price Estimate** With patient insurance information, we can provide a price estimate in advance of the exam.
- **Payment Solutions** Breast MRI can be an expensive procedure – especially if it isn't covered by a patient's insurance. We offer solutions such as payment plans and cash discounts.

### Breast MRI Technology

Shields offers the highest-quality MRI technology from the top brands of GE, Siemens and Philips. All locations offer 1.5T MRI, the gold standard for imaging or 3T MRI, the latest in imaging technology. Both are ideal for patient comfort and diagnostic capabilities. Our commitment to technology is just one way we ensure that your patients receive the very best Breast MRI experience.

\*When compared to non-partnering hospitals in Massachusetts. Savings is not guaranteed, but figure reflects average savings based on rates from mass.gov and from Shields MRI.



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