

## **Radiology Tips: Requesting Formal Yale Radiology Consultation on Outside Imaging Studies**

Radiologists working in the Yale Department of Radiology and Biomedical Imaging (YDR) can issue a formal interpretation with a report placed in Epic for studies performed outside of YNHH, St. Raphael Campus and the YNHH/YDR satellite offices. This process helps minimize the risk to patients and optimize clinical management based on imaging performed outside of YNHH and YDR. Studies have also shown that such programs decrease costs, reduce radiation exposure caused by repeat exams, and result in alteration in diagnosis and clinical management.

To be eligible for an official second read, the study:

1. Must be an MRI, CT, or PET-CT.
2. Must be less than 90 days old. Requests for second reads on exams older than 90 days will automatically be canceled by YDR Image Library staff. Images will still be uploaded/viewable in our PACS.
3. Can be performed at any hospital/site including Smilow Cancer Center affiliated sites (ex. St. Francis). Out-patient exams performed at other Yale-New Haven Health system hospitals including Bridgeport Hospital, Greenwich, L + M, and Westerly are eligible for second reads. In-patient exams are eligible if the patient is transferred to YNHH or if request is placed after patient discharge (see exception #3 below for further information).

Sites not eligible

1. Bridgeport Hospital Outpatient Radiology locations, including Park Avenue Medical Center, are NOT eligible for second reads as exams are interpreted by YDR radiologists.
2. Any exam performed at a Veterans (VA) health system site is NOT eligible secondary to insurance limitations.
3. Second reads for imaging exams on in-patients at other YNHHS hospitals (ex. Bridgeport, Greenwich, etc.) while they are still hospitalized at the other site are not eligible.

To request a consultation of an imaging study performed for an outside imaging study:

1. Upload the exam via Life-Image Software (available on every clinical workstation) and choose nominate for second read option.
2. Carefully complete the patient clinical details and requesting MD's contact information.
3. Co-sign the request for the imaging order in your Epic In-basket.
4. Alternatively, the disc may be dropped off at the Image Library for upload or images can be transferred electronically into our PACS. An order can then be placed in EPIC by typing "outside" in EPIC order search bar and selecting the correct patient study type.
5. Your patient's insurance company will be billed a professional fee for the secondary interpretation by a YDR radiologist.

Note:

If patients have more recent relevant imaging completed or pending, radiologist has freedom to not issue formal report for the requested study to minimize duplication. The older study will be used as comparison for the newer study.

Errors in entered exam information or lack of appropriate clinical information will lead to interpretation delays or cancelation. Orders placed via EPIC with no images uploaded will be canceled after 72 hours.

Tumor board and multi-disciplinary conference cases must follow the same upload and ordering procedure as described above. Please submit these cases 2-3 days in advance of the conference.

“Curbside consults” will not be provided for CT, MRI or PET-CT exams that are eligible for the outside read program.

Any questions, contact Regina Hooley, Vice Chair for Clinical Affairs or Jay Pahade, Vice Chair for Quality and Safety, Department of Radiology and Biomedical Imaging, 203-785-6938.