

## **E-Blast on Visualization of X-Rays and Reports**

If your car broke down, and you paid a mechanic to fix your alternator, would you be comfortable paying a second mechanic in the same shop just to read the invoice? Probably not.

Governmental payers and insurers are no different. If you order an X-ray, no payer will want to give you credit (and attribute additional complexity to your work), if you simply review the x-ray report. To earn that credit, you're going to need to demonstrate that you actually performed some service independent of the radiologist. And chances are, that either you (1) reviewed and interpreted the X-ray yourself, or (2) relied on the radiologist's interpretation.

When you review and interpret the X-ray yourself, be sure you document it. Don't ever just say "I reviewed the radiologist report". That's like the second mechanic telling you he looked at the invoice.

A better approach is to write, "I independently reviewed the x-ray and agree (or disagree) with the radiologist findings of a \_\_\_\_\_ (ex. fractured distal tibia)." This approach demonstrates your independent evaluation and conclusion of the X-Ray. Note also how the doctor's agreement with the radiologist is limited to a certain diagnosis. This is advantageous from a medical/legal perspective as a blanket "I agree with the radiologists findings" may inadvertently extend your approval of the radiologist's findings to observations in the report unrelated to the chief complaint you are treating.