

BedsideImaging

Pricing

Mobile X-Ray Rate Guide 2026

Real pricing data — per-visit costs, Medicare reimbursement, and hidden fees for portable imaging services

- ✓ Medicare reimbursement rates for portable X-ray transport codes
- ✓ Per-visit pricing by facility type and service level
- ✓ Hidden fees to watch for (after-hours, STAT, multi-patient discounts)
- ✓ How to negotiate volume contracts with mobile imaging providers

How Mobile X-Ray Billing Works

Mobile X-ray billing is a multi-component system. Unlike a simple flat fee, invoices combine transportation charges, technical component fees, and professional interpretation fees. Understanding the structure is the first step to controlling imaging costs at your facility.

Billing Structure Overview

Component	Description	Typical Range
Transportation fee (R0070/R0075)	Covers equipment transport and tech travel to facility	\$75-\$150 per trip
Technical component (TC)	X-ray capture, equipment, and technologist time	\$30-\$85 per exam
Professional component (26 modifier)	Radiologist interpretation and report	\$20-\$50 per read
Set-up fee (Q0092)	Equipment stored on-site at facility	\$15-\$25 per setup

Quick Budget Reference

- Single patient, single exam (e.g., chest X-ray): \$100-\$250 per visit
- Single patient, multi-view exam (e.g., hip 2-view): \$150-\$350 per visit
- Multi-patient scheduled route (5+ patients): \$50-\$120 per patient
- STAT/emergency after-hours single patient: \$200-\$500 per visit

Medicare Reimbursement Rates

Medicare Portable X-Ray Transportation & Technical Rates — Your Benchmark

Medicare reimburses mobile X-ray services through specific HCPCS codes. These rates serve as the baseline for commercial payer negotiations. CMS conducts a cost analysis survey every five years (next update: 2026) to adjust transportation allowances based on fuel, vehicle maintenance, personnel wages, and overhead.

Transportation Codes

Code	Description	Medicare Rate (National Avg)
R0070	Transport of portable X-ray equipment and personnel — one patient seen	\$95-\$120 per trip
R0075	Transport of portable X-ray equipment and personnel — more than one patient seen	\$95-\$120 per trip
Q0092	Set-up of portable X-ray equipment (on-site storage)	\$15-\$22 per setup

Common Technical Component Rates

CPT Code	Exam Description	TC Rate (Approx)
71046	Chest X-ray, 2 views	\$25-\$35
71045	Chest X-ray, single view	\$18-\$28
73502	Hip X-ray, 2-3 views	\$28-\$40
73560	Knee X-ray, 1-2 views	\$25-\$35
73110	Wrist X-ray, 3+ views	\$25-\$35
73030	Shoulder X-ray, 2+ views	\$25-\$38
72100	Lumbar spine, 2-3 views	\$30-\$45

Source: CMS Physician Fee Schedule, 2025-2026. Rates vary by Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) region.

Key Rule of Thumb

Transportation is the largest single cost component in mobile X-ray. Multi-patient visits (R0075) spread this cost across patients. Scheduling 5+ patients per route visit can reduce per-patient costs by 40-60%.

Private/Commercial Rate Ranges

Per-Visit Rates by Facility Type

Facility Type	Per-Visit Rate (All-In)	Notes
Skilled nursing facility (SNF) — scheduled route	\$50-\$120/patient	Highest volume; best per-unit pricing
Assisted living facility — scheduled	\$75-\$150/patient	Lower volume than SNF; moderate pricing
Home health — single patient visit	\$150-\$350/visit	Highest per-visit cost; travel-intensive
Hospice — home visit	\$150-\$300/visit	Similar to home health; may include palliative exams
Hospital overflow / ED surge	\$125-\$250/visit	STAT availability premium
Correctional facility	\$100-\$200/visit	Contract-based; security requirements add cost
Group home / residential care	\$100-\$175/visit	Small volume; often bundled with SNF routes

All-In Cost Breakdown for Typical SNF Route

Component	Cost
Transportation (R0075)	\$110
Technical component × 5 exams	\$175 (avg \$35/exam)
Professional reads × 5	\$150 (avg \$30/read)
Total for 5 patients	\$435
Per-patient cost	\$87

Rates by Region

Region / Metro	Per-Visit Range (Single Patient)	Route Rate (Per Patient)	Key Notes
New York (NYC metro)	\$200–\$400	\$90–\$140	Highest costs; parking/access surcharges common
Los Angeles / Southern CA	\$175–\$350	\$80–\$130	High demand from large SNF market
Chicago / Midwest metros	\$150–\$275	\$70–\$110	Moderate market; competitive
Dallas-Fort Worth / Texas	\$125–\$250	\$60–\$100	Growing market; moderate costs
Southeast (Atlanta, Charlotte)	\$125–\$250	\$60–\$100	Standard market pricing
Rural / low-density areas	\$200–\$400	\$100–\$150	Higher travel costs; fewer providers
Pacific Northwest (Seattle, Portland)	\$150–\$300	\$75–\$120	Moderate market with growing demand

Rural Premium

Rural and low-density areas often cost more per visit despite lower cost-of-living — travel distances drive up the transportation component. Consider minimum volume commitments to negotiate better rural rates.

Hidden Fees & Add-Ons

Always request an itemized quote that breaks out transportation, technical, and professional components separately. Budget 15–25% above base rates for add-ons.

Add-On	Typical Cost	When It Applies
STAT / emergency call (< 2 hours)	+\$75–\$200	Urgent imaging outside scheduled routes
After-hours surcharge (nights/ weekends)	+\$50–\$150	Outside 7 AM–5 PM Mon-Fri
Holiday surcharge	+\$100–\$200	Federal holidays
Additional views (beyond initial order)	\$25–\$50 per view	Physician orders additional views on-site
Repeat/retake fee	\$0–\$50	Patient movement or positioning issue requiring re-shoot
Digital image delivery fee	\$10–\$25	CD/USB delivery vs. PACS upload
PACS integration / upload	\$0–\$50/month	Ongoing connectivity to facility PACS system
Wet read / preliminary interpretation	\$15–\$30	Verbal preliminary read before final report
Report delivery rush (< 4 hours)	+\$15–\$35	Faster than standard 24-hour turnaround
Minimum visit charge	\$100–\$200	Applied when patient unavailable or refuses exam
Cancellation fee (< 4 hours notice)	\$50–\$150	Late cancellation of scheduled visit
Mileage surcharge (> 30 miles)	\$1.00–\$2.50/ mile	Beyond standard service radius
Equipment storage rental	\$50–\$200/ month	On-site portable unit stored at facility

Ask specifically about minimum visit charges and cancellation policies before signing a contract. Some providers charge full transportation fees even when patients refuse or are unavailable — negotiate a reduced rate or waiver for no-fault cancellations.

How to Negotiate Better Rates

Numbered list

- 1 Consolidate volume onto scheduled routes.** The single biggest cost lever. Moving from on-demand single-patient visits to scheduled multi-patient routes can reduce per-patient costs by 40–60%.
- 2 Commit to minimum monthly volume.** Providers offer 10–20% discounts for guaranteed minimum exam counts (e.g., 50+ exams/month).
- 3 Bundle transportation across your facilities.** If you operate multiple SNFs or ALFs in one metro area, negotiate a single route contract covering all facilities.
- 4 Choose standard turnaround on reads.** STAT and rush reads add \$15–\$35 per exam. Reserve STAT for true emergencies.
- 5 Negotiate PACS integration at no charge.** Many providers include PACS upload free for volume accounts. Don't pay a separate monthly fee if you're generating consistent volume.
- 6 Avoid after-hours and weekend calls when possible.** Schedule routine imaging during business hours. After-hours premiums add \$50–\$200 per visit.
- 7 Compare all-in pricing, not component rates.** Some providers quote low technical rates but high transportation fees. Always compare total per-patient cost.
- 8 Request quarterly volume reconciliation.** Include a contract clause that adjusts rates downward if your actual volume exceeds projections.
- 9 Get three quotes.** Per-visit pricing in the same market can vary 30–50% between providers.
- 10 Negotiate cancellation terms.** Push for no-charge cancellations with 4+ hours notice, and reduced-rate (50%) charges for same-day cancellations.

Budget Planning Worksheet

Use this worksheet to estimate total mobile X-ray costs for your facility. Print and fill in for each contract period.

Line Item	Estimated Monthly Cost	Actual Monthly Cost
Scheduled route visits (# trips × rate)	\$ _____	\$ _____
STAT/on-demand visits (est. # × rate)	\$ _____	\$ _____
Technical component (# exams × rate)	\$ _____	\$ _____
Professional reads (# exams × rate)	\$ _____	\$ _____
After-hours/weekend surcharges	\$ _____	\$ _____
Additional views / retakes	\$ _____	\$ _____
PACS integration / digital delivery	\$ _____	\$ _____
Equipment storage (if applicable)	\$ _____	\$ _____
Rush read charges	\$ _____	\$ _____
Mileage surcharges	\$ _____	\$ _____
15% contingency buffer	\$ _____	\$ _____
TOTAL ESTIMATED MONTHLY	\$ _____	\$ _____

Complete this worksheet before requesting quotes. Knowing your estimated monthly volume by exam type helps you get accurate all-in pricing and compare apples-to-apples across providers.

CTA box

Want a quick sanity check on your numbers? Email this worksheet to contact@bedsideimaging.com or browse verified mobile X-ray providers at bedsideimaging.com

BedsideImaging

BedsideImaging

The most comprehensive directory of mobile X-ray technologists in the United States

Find providers at bedsideimaging.com