

BULLETIN NUMBER: 07-2019
TITLE: DIAGNOSTIC TESTING
DATE: OCTOBER 1, 2018

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to clarify coverage for diagnostic tests under NHI for off-island referral and local providers.

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Section 553. Special Provisions for Diagnostic Referrals

BACKGROUND:

Since the passing of RPPL8-14, regulations have excluded coverage for all clinic laboratory diagnostic tests conducted both locally and off-island. One major reason for this exclusion is due to the reason that most laboratory diagnostic tests are available on island. Only when a specific clinical lab diagnostic test is not available in Palau, then off-island referral is approved. Diagnostics tests are considered outpatient services and are MSA payable when performed in Palau.

INTERPRETATION:**OFF-ISLAND REFERRAL**

- Care for Off-island diagnostic purposes is excluded. In addition, follow up treatment and evaluations following a covered off-island referral treatment may not be covered. However, where BNH lacks access to medically necessary diagnostic equipment or specialist services are available, either electronically or on Palau, or, in the Plan's determination, that the continuity of care be provided by the off-island provider, then the off-island referral may be approved for reimbursement, subject to other exclusions and limitations found elsewhere in these regulations.

Diagnostic Test commonly referred to Off-island Referral, due to unavailability at BNH:

- Brain MRI
- Spine MRI
- Endoscopy/Colonoscopy (Equipment available, lack of trained personnel)
- Angiography
- Computed Tomography
- Cardiac Catheterization

ON-ISLAND CARE

- Care for On-island local diagnostic purpose is not covered under the plan, but is payable under MSA as an outpatient service.

Types of Diagnostic Test Available at BNH MSA payable

- Mammography
- Echocardiography
- Complete Blood Count (CBC)
- Colonoscopy (Equipment available, lack of trained personnel)
- Bone Density
- CAT scan
- Electrocardiogram
- PSA Test
- Biopsy
- Hep B tests
- Holter Monitor