

Susan L. Vlasuk, DC, DACBR

Diplomate, American Chiropractic Board of Radiology

914 164th St SE Ste B12-535 Mill Creek, WA 98012 • Phone: (425)451-1199 • Fax: (425)454-3953 or (425)225-5359
email: slvlasuk@gmail.com Seminars, tips, and info listed at www.drvxray.com

PROCEDURE FOR SECOND-OPINION IMAGING CONSULTATION: DIGITAL IMAGES

Contact us for an alternate mailing address, to send CDs directly to Dr. Vlasuk's home office.

1. **For your own digital images:**

For each body region on which you want a report, export the entire study (not just one view) to a CD and send it to us. **Be sure to include all available software for measuring, zooming, changing density, etc.** Images without software will probably not allow a formal report, although informal comments may be possible.

2. **For digital images from another facility:**

a. If you have a CD from the imaging facility, just send it to us, or ask the facility to send a CD directly to us. We will return it to you.
b. Or, you can ask the facility if remote access to their PACS can be arranged. Some facilities allow this, and others don't. If they do, obtain contact information, and we will contact the facility and set up the remote access and can then access the images you are interested in (and also images from that facility in the future.) Note, however, that remote access may not be able to be set up immediately and probably won't be quite as fast as sending a CD the first time.

3. **Be sure that your images are accompanied by a "Radiologic Consultation Request" form, available on our website.**

- There is a fillable form that you can complete on-screen and save a copy to the patient's electronic file. Complete ALL the fields in the top section of the form.
- There is a different version to print and fill out by hand. **Save one copy to use as a master, with your business card attached in the corner. Then run a copy of the master for each consultation that you request.** Feel free to fill it out quickly by hand in order to save your time (as long as I can read it!).

Either way, be sure to note your specific questions or areas of interest in the indicated space. Include date of injury, if applicable. There is no need to write a great deal of physical exam data.

4. If you want a report on serial studies (pre and post, or re-exam comparisons), send both (all) sets of films, even if I have previously reported on the original set.
5. Reports will be completed within approximately one week, subject to my teaching schedule. You may call or email if you send images which require urgent attention.
6. Reports on digital images will be emailed to you. The report will arrive as a password-protected PDF file, to comply with HIPAA. **Your password will be sent to you by fax the first time, and will remain the same for your office for all future consultations.**

PAYMENT

In sending films for consultation, you agree to be responsible for payment and to seek reimbursement from your patient; *however*, we will look first to L&I or PIP benefits, if available.

Only *open and active* PIP or L&I insurance claims are billed from this office. **ALL NECESSARY BILLING DATA FOR THESE CLAIMS MUST BE SENT WITH THE X-RAYS.**

PAYMENT: ACTIVE PIP CLAIMS

The following information is required: date of injury, insurance company name and all contact information, and the patient's PIP claim number. It is best if the consultation is requested relatively close to the date of the x-rays. Also include a statement of medical necessity for the consultation. We do not accept third-party claims or liens.

PAYMENT: Washington state L&I

The following information is required: date of injury and claim number. **Also include any relevant self-insurer information.** *Note that the Department checks to see that the x-rays relate to the accepted diagnosis for the claim, and that the claim is currently open, before they will pay for radiologic consultation. You do not need pre-approval for x-ray consultation, but there must be a specific reason indicated why the radiologic consultation is justified.* L&I will not pay for routine x-ray consultation on all films (unless you want to bill only for the technical component).

For all other x-ray reports (except for active L&I cases and active PIP claims) the referring doctor is billed for the report. In sending the films for consultation, you agree to pay for the report and to seek reimbursement from your patient.



1. There is no need to submit payment with the x-rays. A bill is sent to you with the report. **THIS AMOUNT IS DUE IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT OF YOUR REPORT.** You may then look to your patient for reimbursement. A CPT code is provided with the bill so that you or your patient may submit a bill to their insurance carrier.

2. There is no provision for carrying accounts, nor do we bill any other agencies, such as insurance companies. X-ray reports involve relatively small fees for which collection efforts are not economically feasible, particularly when there is usually insufficient data for us to follow up on these accounts.