

1. Are the OCT/photos billing (B908/909/910/911) being cut in half?

Response: Combined maximum of these services per benefit year is four (two technical and two interpretations). Combination of B908's and B910's can be two of one service, or one of each, per benefit year. The B909 and B911 (interpretation) can not be claimed without the corresponding B908 or B910 (technical), meaning an interpretation cannot be claimed by multiple optometrists, for one technical service.

2. How is AH going to institute these cuts mid way through the billing year (Feb1). Might it make more sense to start July 1?

Response: The changes to the Schedule are effective February 1, 2025, so changes will be implemented to align with the effective date.

3. Is one interpretation for photos and one interpretation for imaging allowed per billing year, or is one interpretation for photos and one interpretation for imaging allowed per technical service?

Response: See response to #1.

4. Let's say someone has had a B910/911 in August 2024. Are they now only eligible for one additional technical and one interpretation of an imaging test following February 1, 2025? Or are they now eligible for two more imaging technical and two more imaging interpretation codes (assuming they are with different ICD codes as the current rules apply)?

Response: Only one additional set of either the B910/911 OR B908/B909 can be claimed.

5. If someone had a B908/909 and a B910/911 in December 2024 but need a follow up for the medically necessary testing in four months. Are then now ineligible for any further imaging tests after February 1, 2025?

Response: In this scenario, the maximum benefits for the B908/909 and B910/911 are exhausted until July 1, 2025.

6. An optometrist billed an OCT (B908/909) for a retinal condition and retinal photography (B910/911) for Glaucoma in the fall of 2024. The retinal condition

is stable, but the Glaucoma needs to be monitored in six months. The patient is scheduled to come back after February 1st, is the doctor unable to bill the OCT for Glaucoma?

Response: The doctor is unable to bill. In this scenario, the maximum benefits for the B908/909 and B910/911 are exhausted until July 1, 2025.

7. Has the billing cycle changed?

Response: The benefit year July 1 to June 30 remains. The change on February 1, 2025, will look at the history of the claims from July 1st to January 31st and calculate according to the new rules on February 1st.

The new rules for Fundus Photography are:

Retinal Imaging: Heidelberg (aka Heidelberg Retinal Tomography or HRT), and OCT (aka Optical Coherence Tomography)

Retinal Photography: Fundus Photography

- 1. Annual benefit includes two technical components (HSC B908 or B910) and two interpretation components (HSC B909 or B911) maximum of 4 per benefit year.*
- 2. Technical and interpretation components can be claimed by the same or different optometrists for each patient*
- 3. Only one interpretation is payable per technical service*

8. Seeking clarity around the rules change for OCT and photos:

- a) Can we bill Photos (I/T) two times per year (separate diagnostic codes).

Response: Yes, if medically necessary

- b) Can we bill OCT (I/T) two times per year (separate diagnostic codes)

Response: Yes, if medically necessary

- c) Can we bill one set of Photos (I/T) & one set of OCT (I/T) once per year (could be the same day or separate visits, but again have to have separate diagnostic codes)

Response: Yes, if medically necessary

- d) *Does the stipulation for separate diagnostic codes no longer apply now that we can only do one of each per year??*

Response: No rules were changed regarding the diagnostic codes.

9. Seeking clarity on the example of a patient that needs to come twice per year for monitoring of AMD and Glaucoma.

- a) Can a doctor bill one interpretation for OCT, one interpretation for photos in the fall, and bill the SAME thing (swapping the diagnostic codes) in the spring? (therefore, four services in total)

Response: No, only one interpretation is payable per technical service

- b) Could the doctor bill technical codes for OCT and photos once, and then again in the spring?

Response: No, only one interpretation is payable per technical service

10. Can I bill a technical for OCT AND PHOTOS in the fall, AND again in the spring (of course, with different diagnostic codes)? (four technical, NO interpretations)

Response: No. Annual benefit includes two technical components (**HSC B908 or B910**) and two interpretation components (**HSC B909 or B911**) maximum of 4 per benefit year.