

## **Q&A-Radiology: Diagnostic Radiology (Diagnostic Imaging)**

**CPT® Assistant.**

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**Question:** Which CPT code(s) should be reported when a total of four X-ray images of the chest are taken: two anteroposterior (AP) images and two lateral images?

**Answer:** In this situation, it would be appropriate to report code 71046, Radiologic examination, chest; 2 views, to recognize that two distinct views (AP and lateral) were obtained. X rays are reported based on the anatomic-specific area (eg, chest, abdomen) and the number of distinct views (eg, AP, posterior anterior, lordotic, decubitus), not the actual number of images or pictures obtained. An image in the AP position is considered one distinct view and an image of the lateral position is considered a second distinct view. Repeat or additional X rays of the same view (eg, because of the need to include all the anatomy of a large body habitus or a repeated image because of motion artifact or other impaired visualization) do not count as additional distinct views, rather they are additional images to complete the view.