

Radiology Partners media statement:

On December 23, 2024, Aetna filed an unexpected lawsuit against Radiology Partners (RP) and RP-affiliated practice, Mori, Bean, and Brooks, Inc. (MBB). MBB has been an out-of-network provider with Aetna for over two years, since Aetna chose to terminate in July 2022 the 20-year agreement previously in place. RP and MBB strongly dispute Aetna's allegations and stands by the integrity of its owned and affiliated practices, which comply with all applicable healthcare laws and regulations and ordinary business practices.

Aetna's actions appear to reflect a broader response to its terrible track record for reimbursing medical practices under the federal No Surprises Act (NSA). Aetna's complaint failed to mention that MBB has a 98% win rate through NSA arbitration, which is determined by independent, third-party arbiters reviewing underpaid, out-of-network claims from Aetna. This overwhelmingly clear trend indicates neutral third parties applying federal law conclude Aetna uniformly fails to fairly compensate providers who support patient care. As the only available avenue when a provider is forced out of network by Aetna, MBB turned to the NSA arbitration process for relief when the payor underpaid for services MBB had rendered to its members. Meanwhile, rather than negotiate a contract to return to in-network status that would save its employers and members money, Aetna has been seemingly happy to pass along those costs, including the enormous fee burden of the NSA process. We view this as an embarrassing waste of healthcare resources and would much prefer to be in network with Aetna, as we are with the vast majority of payors. We have communicated this to Aetna countless times over the last two years.

This lawsuit exemplifies a conscious strategy by Aetna to leverage legal disputes rather than seek a fair resolution. Aetna does not want to negotiate, does not want to pay when it loses disputes in the NSA arbitration process. It does, however, want a judge to say it does not have to pay its bills from already-decided disputes and is seemingly content to burden employers and ultimately members through higher premiums with unnecessary and extraordinary costs of NSA arbitration. MBB and RP would much prefer to prioritize what matters most—patient care, focused on delivering high-quality radiology services to all patients, including Aetna members.