2021 Magellan Clinical Guidelines
For Medical Necessity Review

RADIATION ONCOLOGY GUIDELINES

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*National Imaging Associates, Inc. (NIA) is a subsidiary of Magellan Healthcare, Inc.
Guidelines for Clinical Review Determination

Preamble

Magellan is committed to the philosophy of supporting safe and effective treatment for patients. The medical necessity criteria that follow are guidelines for the provision of diagnostic imaging. These criteria are designed to guide both providers and reviewers to the most appropriate diagnostic tests based on a patient’s unique circumstances. In all cases, clinical judgment consistent with the standards of good medical practice will be used when applying the guidelines. Determinations are made based on both the guideline and clinical information provided at the time of the request. It is expected that medical necessity decisions may change as new evidence-based information is provided or based on unique aspects of the patient’s condition. The treating clinician has final authority and responsibility for treatment decisions regarding the care of the patient.
Guideline Development Process

These medical necessity criteria were developed by Magellan Healthcare for the purpose of making clinical review determinations for requests for therapies and diagnostic procedures. The developers of the criteria sets included representatives from the disciplines of radiology, internal medicine, nursing, cardiology, and other specialty groups. Magellan’s guidelines are reviewed yearly and modified when necessary following a literature search of pertinent and established clinical guidelines and accepted diagnostic imaging practices.

All inquiries should be directed to:
Magellan Healthcare
PO Box 67390
Phoenix, AZ 85082-7390
Attn: Magellan Healthcare Chief Medical Officer
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## RADIATION ONCOLOGY GUIDELINES

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2D – 3D CONFORMAL RADIATION THERAPY (CRT), EXTERNAL BEAM RADIATION THERAPY FOR OTHER CANCERS

INDICATIONS FOR 2D – 3D CRT

OTHER CANCER SITES NOT LISTED ABOVE
- Conventional 2D and 3D-CRT treatment delivery is appropriate for all primary malignancies not listed below.
- The number of fractions for definitive treatment is approvable up to 30 fractions. Fractions beyond 30 may be approvable upon physician review when clinical rationale is presented.

BACKGROUND:
This guideline for 2D – 3D CRT applies to other cancers not listed below for programs that manage all cancer sites.

Refer to applicable site-specific guidelines for the management of primary malignancies. Applicable site-specific guidelines may include all or some of the sites below, depending on the specific program.

- Anal Cancer
- Bone Metastases
- Breast Cancer
- Cervical Cancer
- CNS Cancer
- Colon Cancer
- Rectal Cancer
- Endometrial Cancer
- Gastric Cancers
- Head and Neck Cancer
- Lung - Non Small Cell
- Lung - Small Cell Lung Cancer
- Lymphoma - Hodgkin’s Lymphoma
- Lymphoma -Non Hodgkin’s Lymphoma
- Pancreas Cancer
- Prostate Cancers

For metastasis to the brain, regardless of primary site, refer to the NIA clinical guideline for Central Nervous System (CNS). For metastasis to bone, refer to the NIA clinical guideline for Bone Metastases. For all other metastases, refer to the NIA clinical guideline for metastatic disease.

POLICY HISTORY:
Review Date: February 2019
Review Summary: No changes

Review Date: February 2020
Review Summary: No Changes
ANAL CANCER

INDICATIONS FOR RADIATION THERAPY:

2D, 3D-CRT and IMRT are all appropriate techniques for treatment of anal cancer. Electron beam or photon beam are the most commonly used techniques for delivering boost radiotherapy (NCCN, 2018).

- Dosage Guidelines: 45 Gy – 59.4 Gy in 28 to 33 fractions

Unless otherwise indicated standard radiation fractionation consists of 1.8 Gy to 2.0 Gy per day

TREATMENT OPTIONS REQUIRING PHYSICIAN REVIEW:

Proton Beam Radiation Therapy
Proton beam is not an approved treatment option for anal cancer. Proton beam has not been proven superior treatment to conventional radiation therapy.

Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT)
Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy is not a standard treatment option for the treatment of anal cancer. A peer review is required with a radiation oncologist.

THE FOLLOWING APPLIES TO CMS (MEDICARE) MEMBERS ONLY:
For Proton Beam and Stereotactic Radiotherapy refer to Local Coverage Determination (LCD), if applicable.

BACKGROUND:
This guideline outlines methods suitable for delivering anal carcinoma radiation therapy. Techniques such CT simulation, conformal approach and intensely modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) have shown promising results in ongoing clinical trials. IMRT use requires expertise in defining appropriate target volume over conventional conformal beam irradiation. As in most cancers, a multidisciplinary approach is preferred for treating patients with anal carcinoma.

POLICY HISTORY:
Review Date: February 2019
Review Summary: Added and updated references

Review Date: February 2020
Review Summary: No Changes
REFERENCES:


BONE METASTASES

MEDICALLY NECESSARY INDICATIONS FOR RADIATION THERAPY:

- Conventional 2D planning techniques is appropriate for the treatment of bone metastases.
- 3D-CRT may be indicated in select cases such as situations of re-treatment, overlapping volumes or adjacent critical structures that are likely to cause complications. Requests for 3D-CRT must be accompanied by supporting clinical rationale.

Favorable Risk (Good performance status = ECOG less than 3):
- EBRT – Up to 10 fractions for multiple bone metastases
- EBRT – Up to 14 fractions for spinal cord compression symptoms or single lesion or instances that require a longer fractionated course to minimize patient discomfort (e.g., nausea) (Lutz, 2017).

Unfavorable Risk (Poor performance status = ECOG 3 or greater or progressive metastatic disease):
- EBRT – Up to 5 fractions
Requests and supporting rationale for additional fractions can be discussed with a physician reviewer.

TREATMENT OPTIONS REQUIRING PHYSICIAN REVIEW

Intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT)

IMRT is not indicated as a standard treatment option and should not be used routinely for the delivery of radiation therapy for bone metastasis. IMRT may be appropriate for limited circumstances in which radiation therapy is indicated and 3D conformal radiation therapy (3D-CRT) techniques cannot adequately deliver the radiation prescription without exceeding normal tissue radiation tolerance, the delivery is anticipated to contribute to potential late toxicity or tumor volume dose heterogeneity is such that unacceptable hot or cold spots are created.

Requests for IMRT require physician review of the clinical rationale and documentation for performing IMRT rather than 2D or 3D-CRT treatment planning and delivery. Supporting documentation will need to:

- Demonstrate how 3D-CRT isodose planning cannot produce a satisfactory treatment plan (as stated above) via the use of patient specific dose volume histograms and isodose plans.
- Provide tissue constraints for both the target and affected critical structures.

Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT)


Proton Beam Radiation Therapy
Proton beam is not an approved treatment option for bone metastasis. Overall, studies of proton beam therapy have not shown clinical outcomes to be superior to conventional radiation therapy in bone metastases.

THE FOLLOWING APPLIES TO CMS (MEDICARE) MEMBERS ONLY:

For Proton Beam and Stereotactic Radiotherapy refer to Local Coverage Determination (LCD), if applicable.

BACKGROUND:
Bone metastases are a common manifestation of malignancy that can cause severe and debilitating effects including pain, spinal cord compression, hypercalcemia, and pathologic fracture. Radiation therapy has a proven track record in the palliation of bone metastases. Following a course of palliative treatment, approximately one-third of patients will have complete relief of pain and two-thirds of patients will have significant reduction in their pain. The optimal delivery of radiation therapy has been the focus of multiple trials looking at the best dose fractionation. Common dose fractionation schedules have shown good rates of palliation, including 8 Gy in 1 fraction, 20 Gy in 4 fractions, 24 Gy in 6 fractions, or 30 Gy in 10 fractions. All provide excellent pain control with minimal side effects. The benefit of the single fraction is that it is the most convenient for patients, whereas the advantage of a longer course of treatment has the advantage of a lower incidence of re-treatment to the same site. Dose fractionation is typically determined based on location of the metastasis, patient’s clinical status, previous irradiation treatment, etc. Therefore, multiple factors must be reviewed prior to prescribing palliative radiotherapy.

POLICY HISTORY:
Review Date: February 2019
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Review Summary: Updated references
REFERENCES:


Brachytherapy

CPT Codes:
LDR: 77761, 77762, 77763, 77778, 77789
HDR: 77767, 77768, 77770, 77771, 77772
Electronic Brachytherapy: 0394T, 0395T

This guideline applies to other cancers not listed below for programs that manage all cancer sites. LDR (low dose rate brachytherapy) and HDR (high dose rate brachytherapy) must be requested separately and are not interchangeable.

Refer to applicable site-specific guidelines for the management of primary malignancies. Applicable site-specific guidelines may include all or some of the sites below, depending on the specific program.

- Anal Cancer
- Bone Metastases
- Breast Cancer
- Cervical Cancer
- CNS Cancer
- Colon Cancer
- Rectal Cancer
- Endometrial Cancer
- Gastric Cancers
- Head and Neck Cancer
- Lung - Non Small Cell
- Lung - Small Cell Lung Cancer
- Lymphoma - Hodgkin’s Lymphoma
- Lymphoma - Non Hodgkin’s Lymphoma
- Pancreas Cancer
- Prostate Cancers

For metastasis to the brain, regardless of primary site, refer to the NIA clinical guideline for Central Nervous System (CNS). For metastasis to bone, refer to the NIA clinical guideline for Bone Metastases. For all other metastases, refer to the NIA clinical guideline for Metastatic Disease.

TREATMENT OPTIONS REQUIRING PHYSICIAN REVIEW

- Brachytherapy for sites beyond those listed above may be approvable with submission of supportive documentation (ASTRO, 2012).
- Intracavitary balloon catheter brain brachytherapy for malignant gliomas or metastasis to the brain is considered investigational.
- Indications for SIRT include:
  - Unresectable metastatic liver tumors – see “Metastatic Disease Guideline”
  - Unresectable metastatic liver tumors from primary colorectal cancer see “Metastatic Disease Guideline”
  - Unresectable primary hepatocellular carcinoma (ACR, 2015)
  - Unresectable neuroendocrine tumors
• The use of electronic brachytherapy for basal cell and squamous cell cancers of the skin (of non-melanomatous skin cancers) and benign skin conditions are considered investigational and experimental at this time.

BACKGROUND:
Selective Internal Radiation Therapy (SIRT), also known as radioembolization with microsphere brachytherapy device (RMBD) and transarterial radioembolization, uses microscopic radioactive spheres to deliver radiation to the tumor site. Treatment is delivered through catheter injection of radioactive Yttrium-90 (90Y) microspheres into the hepatic artery.

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REFERENCES:


Breast Cancer

INDICATIONS FOR RADIATION THERAPY AND TREATMENT OPTIONS:
This guideline outlines several methods suitable for the employment of radiation therapy in conjunction with breast cancer treatment. These include the use of three-dimensional conformal radiation therapy (3D-CRT), intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT), image guided radiation therapy (IGRT) and internal radiation (brachytherapy). IMRT is not indicated as a standard treatment option for breast cancer but may be indicated for selected cases of breast cancer with close proximity to critical structures. Most external beam treatments are delivered using a high energy linear accelerator. Brachytherapy is generally delivered using temporary HDR sources such as 192-Iridium (192-Ir) or Cesium-137 (137-Cs).

Whole Breast Radiation (NCCN, 2018; Smith, 2018)
Three-dimensional conformal radiation therapy (3D-CRT) is the appropriate technique for treatment of the whole breast following breast conserving surgery (lumpectomy, breast conservation surgery). Electron beam or photon beam are the most commonly used techniques for delivering boost radiotherapy.

Dosage Guidelines
- 45-50.4 Gy up to 28 fractions with boost 59-66.4 Gy up to 37 fractions
- Hypofractioned radiation therapy is considered medically necessary with 40-45 Gy at 2.66 Gy per fraction in 15 to 16 fractions.

Partial Breast Irradiation (Correa, 2017)
Accelerated partial breast irradiation (APBI) may be considered as the sole form of radiation therapy, in lieu of whole breast radiation following lumpectomy for selected cases. Patients with a small tumor, clear surgical margins after lumpectomy, and no lymph nodes containing cancer are typically eligible for APBI. APBI is considered appropriate for patients who meet all of the following criteria:
- Age 50 or older
- No use of adjuvant chemotherapy
  - Lymph nodes negative
  - Negative surgical margins
  - Tumor size less than or equal to 3 cm (including ductal carcinoma in situ)
  - Clinically or microscopically unifocal
  - Absence of BRCA in 1/2 mutation, if applicable

Dosage Guidelines
- Appropriate fractionation schemes for APBI are 34 Gy in 10 fractions delivered twice per day with brachytherapy or 38.5Gy in 10 fractions twice per day with external beam photon therapy

Chest Wall Radiation (NCCN, 2018)
Three-dimensional conformal radiation therapy (3D-CRT) is the appropriate technique for treatment of the chest wall following mastectomy. Electron beam or photon beam are the most commonly used techniques for delivering boost radiotherapy.

**Dosage Guidelines**
- 45-50.4 Gy up to 28 fractions with boost 59-66.4 Gy up to 37 fractions

**Other Considerations**
- Re-irradiation following local or regional recurrence after prior mastectomy and prior breast or chest wall radiation may be appropriate.
- For inflammatory breast cancer, whole breast or chest wall radiation, consider nodal radiation with or without chest wall boost.

**Dosage Guidelines**
- 45-50.4 Gy up to 28 fractions with boost 59-66.4 Gy up to 37 fractions. *Standard radiation fractionation consists of 1.8 Gy to 2.0 Gy per day.*

**TREATMENT OPTIONS REQUIRING PHYSICIAN REVIEW:**

**Intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT)** (NCCN, 2018)

IMRT is not indicated as a standard treatment option and should not be used routinely for the delivery of radiation therapy for breast cancer. IMRT is strictly defined by the utilization of inverse planning modulation techniques. IMRT may be appropriate for limited circumstances in which radiation therapy is indicated and 3D conformal radiation therapy (3D-CRT) techniques cannot adequately deliver the radiation prescription without exceeding normal tissue radiation tolerance, the delivery is anticipated to contribute to potential late toxicity or tumor volume dose heterogeneity is such that unacceptable hot or cold spots are created. If IMRT is utilized, techniques to account for respiratory motion should be performed.

Clinical rationale and documentation for performing IMRT rather than 2D or 3D-CRT treatment planning and delivery will need to:

- Demonstrate how 3D-CRT isodose planning cannot produce a satisfactory treatment plan (as stated above) via the use of a patient specific dose volume histograms and isodose plans. 3D-CRT techniques such as step-and-shoot or field-in-field should be considered for the comparison.

- Confirm the IMRT requested will be inversely planned (forward plans or 'field-in-field' plans are not considered IMRT).

- Provide tissue constraints for both the target and affected critical structures.
**Brachytherapy**

Interstitial brachytherapy boost treatment requires a peer review and documentation that improvement in dose delivery to the boost target cannot be delivered with external beam therapy. Other emerging techniques such as Non invasive Image Guided Breast Brachytherapy (NIIGBB) techniques are being investigated and are not considered a medically necessary treatment option for the treatment of breast cancer.

**Proton Beam Radiation Therapy**

Proton beam is not an approved treatment option for breast cancer. There are limited clinical studies comparing proton beam therapy to 3-D conformal radiation or IMRT. Overall, studies have not shown clinical outcomes to be superior to conventional radiation therapy.

**Intraoperative radiation therapy (IORT)**

- Single Fraction Electron-beam IORT is considered medically necessary in accordance with ASTRO guidelines (Correa, 2017) if the following criteria are met:
  - Individual is 50 years of age or older with invasive cancer
  - T Stage: Tis or T1
  - Clinically node negative
  - Negative surgical margins

- The use of electronic brachytherapy for IORT (such as Intrabeam, Xoft and Papillon systems) is considered experimental, investigational and/or unproven.

**THE FOLLOWING APPLIES TO CMS (MEDICARE) MEMBERS ONLY:**

*For Proton Beam and Stereotactic Radiotherapy refer to Local Coverage Determination (LCD), if applicable.*

**BACKGROUND:**

Breast cancer is the second most commonly diagnosed cancer among women, after skin cancer, and it accounts for nearly 25% of cancer diagnoses in U.S. women. After a breast cancer diagnosis is made, it is followed by a staging evaluation to determine extent of disease (local, regional, or metastatic) and prognostic findings. Importance is placed on tumor size, lymph node involvement (sentinel node), the histo-pathological interpretation, margins of resection, and hormonal and growth-factor receptor status. Treatment for breast cancer may consist of one of several mastectomy options or breast-conserving surgery and radiation therapy.

Radiation therapy is used to treat the breast and lymph node bearing areas after partial mastectomy or lumpectomy. Since breast cancers are relatively responsive to moderate doses of radiation therapy following tumor excision, treatment for cure may be achieved by external beam techniques or by partial breast irradiation techniques.
The methods suitable for delivering breast radiation therapy have been established through clinical trials providing strong evidence in support of radiation therapy as an effective breast cancer treatment. The traditional approach utilizes tangential radiation fields to the breast and chest wall; based on the clinical and pathological factors, this may be followed by boost to the site of excision (tumor bed). The axilla and supra-clavicular regions also may be included in a separate field based on analysis of prognostic risk factors. Improvements in technology, the observation that local tumor recurrence is most frequently observed near the site of excision, and the desire to limit the extent of radiation have led to restriction of the radiation to the tumor bed (partial breast irradiation) for selected cases.

**POLICY HISTORY:**
*Review Date:* February 2019  
*Review Summary:* Added and updated references

*Review Date:* February 2020  
*Review Summary:* Added and updated references
REFERENCES:


American Society of Therapeutic Radiation Oncology (ASTRO). Practical Radiation Oncology. Radiation therapy for the whole breast: Executive summary of an American Society for Radiation Oncology


Central Nervous System Metastatic Tumors

INDICATIONS FOR RADIATION THERAPY FOR PATIENTS WITH METASTATIC CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM TUMORS

Metastatic Brain Tumors (NCCN, 2018)

- Favorable Risk (stable systemic disease or new diagnosis, pathologically confirmed diagnosis, no resection)
  - Whole Brain Radiation Therapy (WBRT) 2D/3D-CRT – 20-40 Gy (maximum 20 fractions)
  - WBRT 2D/3D-CRT + 3D/IMRT boost
  - Stereotactic Radiosurgery/Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy (SRS/SBRT) alone for lesions ≤4cm, controlled systemic disease, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) rating of less than 3, 4 or less metastasis prior to procedure (maximum 5 fractions)
- Unfavorable Risk (poor systemic control, no role for chemotherapy, pathologically confirmed diagnosis, no resection)
  - WBRT 2D/3D-CRT – 20-40 Gy (maximum 20 fractions)

Post Metastasis Resection (NCCN, 2018)

- WBRT 20-40 Gy (20 fractions maximum)
- WBRT + external beam boost
- Stereotactic Radiosurgery/Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy (SRS/SBRT) post metastasis resection (up to 5 fractions)

Metastatic Spine Tumors (NCCN, 2018)

- 2D/3D-CRT – 8-30 Gy (maximum 10 fractions)
- Dose/fraction dependent on tumor type and performance status
- Stereotactic radiotherapy/IMRT may be appropriate for re-treatment.

INDICATIONS FOR PROTON BEAM THERAPY:

Treatment of the following in children less than 21 years of age:

- Metastatic central nervous system tumors when sparing of surrounding normal tissues cannot be achieved with photon therapy

Treatment at any age:

- Spinal tumors (primary or metastatic) where spinal cord has previously been treated with radiation or where the spinal cord tolerance may be exceeded with conventional treatment
- Tumors as the base of skull (chordoma, chondrasarcomas)
Requests for Proton Beam Radiation Therapy beyond the indications listed above require physician review by a radiation oncologist as outlined below to determine medical necessity.

**TREATMENT OPTIONS REQUIRING PHYSICIAN REVIEW:**

**Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT) (NCCN, 2018)**

Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT) may be appropriate for limited circumstances in which radiation therapy is indicated and 3D conformal radiation therapy (3D-CRT) techniques cannot adequately deliver the radiation prescription without exceeding normal tissue radiation tolerance, the delivery is anticipated to contribute to potential late toxicity or tumor volume dose heterogeneity is such that unacceptable hot or cold spots are created.

Clinical rationale and documentation for performing IMRT rather than 2D or 3D-CRT treatment planning and delivery will need to:

- Demonstrate how 3D-CRT isodose planning cannot produce a satisfactory treatment plan (as stated above) via the use of patient specific dose volume histograms and isodose plans.
- Provide tissue constraints for both the target and affected critical structures.

**Stereotactic Radiosurgery (SRS) or Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT) (NCCN, 2018)**

- For metastatic brain tumors with unfavorable risk (poor systemic control, no role for chemotherapy, pathologically confirmed diagnosis, no resection), the following requests require review with a physician reviewer:
  - WBRT 2D/3D-CRT + SRS/SBRT boost (15-24 Gy, maximum 1 fractions)
  - WBRT 2D/3D-CRT + fractionated SRS/SBRT boost (up to 5 fractions and limited to symptomatic metastasis not responding to WBRT)

Requests for SRS/SBRT, beyond the indications listed above, require review by a radiation oncologist of documentation supporting medical necessity. For patients with 4 or more lesions, SRS may be appropriate in patients with good performance status and low overall tumor volume.

**Proton Beam Radiation Therapy**

- Proton Beam Radiation Therapy for central nervous system lesions adjacent to the brain stem, spinal cord, or optic nerve requires physician review by a radiation oncologist. A treatment plan with a comparison to conventional IMRT/SRS may be required.
- Requests for Proton Beam Radiation Therapy beyond the indications listed above require physician review by a radiation oncologist.

**BACKGROUND:**
Metastatic tumors for the Central Nervous System (CNS) start in other organs, e.g., lung, breast or colon, and spread to the brain and spinal cord. In adults, these are more common than primary CNS/brain tumors. Both primary and metastatic brain tumors can readily spread through the brain or spinal cord, destroying and compressing normal brain tissue. Metastatic brain tumors occur at some point in 20 to 40% of persons with cancer and are the most common type of brain tumor. Prognosis is dependent on several factors including the type of tumor, location, response to treatment, an individual’s age, and overall health status.

Surgery, radiation therapy and chemotherapy are the primary modalities used to treat CNS tumors, either alone or in combination. There are many different approaches in delivering radiation therapy to CNS tumors, including fractionated radiation therapy, stereotactic fractionated radiotherapy, stereotactic radiosurgery, brachytherapy, and proton beam irradiation. Fractionated conformal beam irradiation is the most common approach.

Radiation therapy may be delivered following surgical resection, debulking or biopsy procedures. It may also be used to treat recurrences in patients whose initial treatment was surgery alone. The value of radiation therapy lies in its ability to cure some patients and to prolong disease-free survival for others. Combined modality approaches that include chemotherapy may also contribute to prolonged disease-free survival in pediatric patients with medulloblastoma, germ cell tumors and gliomas.

The dose and fractionation of radiation depends not only on the tumor type, but also in the curative/palliative setting.

**POLICY HISTORY:**
**Review Date:** February 2019  
**Review Summary:** Added and updated references

**Review Date:** February 2020  
**Review Summary:** Updated references
REFERENCES:


Cervical Cancer

INDICATIONS FOR RADIATION THERAPY AND TREATMENT OPTIONS:

Definitive/Preoperative Radiation Therapy (NCCN, 2018)

- Stage IA –IA2 – Brachytherapy (LDR or HDR) +/- 2D/3D-CRT (40-50 Gy; 28 fx max)
- Stage IB1 – Pelvic 2D/3D-CRT (40-50 Gy; 28 fx max) + brachytherapy boost
- Stage IB2-IIB – Pelvic radiation therapy 2D/3D-CRT (40-50 Gy; 28 fx max) + brachytherapy boost) and concomitant chemotherapy +/- adjuvant hysterectomy.
- Stage IIIB – Pelvic and/or paraortic 2D/3D-CRT + brachytherapy + concurrent chemotherapy.
- Stage IVB – 2D/3D-CRT +/- brachytherapy for palliation only (symptom control)

*Grossly involved unresected nodes may be evaluated for boosting with an additional 10-15Gy*

Postoperative (Adjuvant) Radiation Therapy (NCCN, 2018)

- Patients found to have deep cervical stromal invasion, lymphovascular invasion and/or bulky primary tumors.
  - Pelvic 2D/3D-CRT (45-50 Gy; 28 fx max) +/- concurrent chemotherapy
- Patients with positive nodes, positive margins and/or parametrial invasion –
  - Pelvic 2D/3D-CRT (45-50 Gv; 28 fx max) + concurrent chemotherapy
  - Pelvic 2D/3D-CRT (45-50 Gy; 28 fx max) +/- vaginal brachytherapy boost (LDR or HDR) can be considered in women with a positive margin.

Local /Regional Recurrence (NCCN, 2018)

- No previous RT or outside previous RT fields
  - 2D/3D-CRT + chemotherapy +/- brachytherapy
- Previous RT
  - Intraoperative Radiation Therapy (IORT) for centralized disease
  - Possible Brachytherapy (LDR or HDR) for centralized disease < 2cm Tumor directed 2D/3D-CRT +/- chemotherapy if noncentral disease

*Grossly involved unresected nodes may be evaluated for boosting with an additional 10-15Gy.*

Unless otherwise indicated standard radiation fractionation consists of 1.8 Gy to 2.0 Gy per day.

TREATMENT OPTIONS REQUIRING ADDITIONAL CLINICAL REVIEW (NCCN, 2018):

Intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT)
IMRT is not indicated as a standard treatment option and should not be used routinely for the delivery of radiation therapy for cervical cancer. IMRT is strictly defined by the utilization of inverse planning modulation techniques. IMRT may be appropriate for circumstances in which radiation therapy is indicated and
Non-IMRT techniques cannot adequately deliver the radiation prescription without exceeding normal tissue radiation tolerance. The non-IMRT delivery is anticipated to contribute to potential late toxicity.

Tumor volume dose heterogeneity from non-IMRT techniques is such that unacceptable hot or cold spots are created.

Requests for IMRT treatment delivery to the cervix will be reviewed for medical necessity prior to authorization based on the above criteria. Clinical rationale and documentation for performing IMRT rather than non-IMRT techniques must be provided for review. This includes a statement of medical necessity from the requesting provider and a dosimetric comparison plan addressing the approval criteria above.

The plan will:

- Demonstrate how non-IMRT treatment planning cannot produce a satisfactory treatment plan (as stated above) via the use of patient specific dose volume histograms and isodose plans.
- Provide tissue constraints for both the target and affected critical structures.

**Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT)**

Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy is not a standard treatment option for the treatment of cervical cancer.

**Proton Beam Radiation Therapy**

Proton beam is not an approved treatment option for cervical cancer. Proton beam has not been proven superior treatment to conventional radiation therapy.

**THE FOLLOWING APPLIES TO CMS (MEDICARE) MEMBERS ONLY:**

*For Proton Beam and Stereotactic Radiotherapy refer to Local Coverage Determination (LCD), if applicable.*

**BACKGROUND:**

The role of radiation therapy in the treatment of cervical cancer has been long established through clinical trial, providing strong evidence of support as an effective cervical cancer treatment. The traditional approach utilizes external beam irradiation therapy to the pelvis ± periaortic lymph nodes, as well as some form of brachytherapy boost, based on clinical and pathologic factors. There have been improvements in radiation therapy technology, reducing dose to normal surrounding tissue (bladder, rectum, and small bowel), but the majority of the experience to date is based on a point A dosing system.

This guideline outlines several methods suitable for the employment of radiation therapy in conjunction with cervical cancer treatment. These include the use of three-dimensional conformal radiation therapy...
(3D-CRT), intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT), image-guided radiation therapy (IGRT), and internal radiation (brachytherapy). Although intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) is becoming more widely available, the routine use in treating cervical cancer remains to be validated. IMRT may be useful when high doses are required to treat gross disease in regional lymph nodes. However IMRT should not be used as routine alternatives to brachytherapy for treatment of central disease in patients with an intact cervix. Although there have been significant advances in imaging, planning and treatment delivery, this must be tailored to a thorough understanding to the stage of disease, pathways for dissemination and recurrence risk. Most external beam treatments are delivered using a high-energy linear accelerator. Brachytherapy is generally delivered as either low dose permanent implant or high dose rate implant. Principles of radiation therapy for these guidelines closely follow what is recommended both by the American Brachytherapy Society (Cervical Cancer Brachytherapy Task Group), as well as in National Comprehensive Cancer Network Practice Guidelines for Cervical Cancer.

POLICY HISTORY:
Review Date: February 2019
Review Summary: Added and updated references

Review Date: February 2020
Review Summary: Updated references
REFERENCES:


CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM – PRIMARY NEOPLASM AND METASTATIC TUMORS

INDICATIONS FOR RADIATION THERAPY FOR PRIMARY CNS NEOPLASMS

Gliomas (NCCN, 2018)

- Low Grade Tumors – Grade I or II
  - Post-operative/biopsy – 3D-CRT/IMRT (max 33 fx)
- Recurrence – Low Grade
  - 3D-CRT/IMRT – (max 33 fx)
  - Consider reirradiation on select cases. Dose on individual basis
- High Grade Tumors – Grade III or IV
  - Post-operative/biopsy – 3D-CRT/IMRT (max 33 fx)
- Recurrence – High Grade
  - 3D-CRT/IMRT – (max 33 fx)
  - Consider reirradiation on select cases. Dose on individual basis.

Ependymoma – High (Anaplastic) or Low Grade (NCCN, 2018)

- Brain and/or spine 3D-CRT/IMRT (max 33 fx)

Meningiomas (NCCN, 2018)

- Low Grade and High Grade
  - 3D-CRT/IMRT (max 33 fx)
  - SRS/SBRT (max 5 fx)

CNS Lymphoma (NCCN, 2018)

- Complete response to chemotherapy – 3D-CRT (max 20 fx)
- Less than complete response to chemotherapy
- Whole Brain – 3D-CRT (max 20 fx) with or without Limited field boost – 3D-CRT/IMRT (max 25 fx)

Medulloblastoma/Supratentorial PNET (adult) (NCCN, 2018)

Craniospinal radiation with brain primary site boost – 3D-CRT/IMRT (max 31 fx total)

Primary Spinal Cord (NCCN, 2018)

- 3D-CRT/IMRT (max 28 fx)
  - Tumor below conus medullaris 3D-CRT/IMRT (max 33 fx)
- SRS/SBRT – (max 5 fx)
INDICATIONS FOR RADIATION THERAPY FOR PATIENTS WITH METASTATIC CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM TUMORS

Metastatic Brain Tumors (NCCN, 2018)

- Favorable Risk (stable systemic disease or new diagnosis, pathologically confirmed diagnosis, no resection)
  - Whole Brain Radiation Therapy (WBRT) 2D/3D-CRT – 20-40 Gy (maximum 20 fractions)
  - WBRT 2D/3D-CRT + 3D/IMRT boost
  - Stereotactic Radiosurgery/Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy (SRS/SBRT) alone for lesions ≤4cm, controlled systemic disease, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) rating of less than 3, 4 or less metastasis prior to procedure (maximum 5 fractions)

- Unfavorable Risk (poor systemic control, no role for chemotherapy, pathologically confirmed diagnosis, no resection)
  - WBRT 2D/3D-CRT – 20-40 Gy (maximum 20 fractions)

Post Metastasis Resection (NCCN, 2018)

- WBRT 20-40 Gy (20 fractions maximum)
- WBRT + external beam boost
- Stereotactic Radiosurgery/Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy (SRS/SBRT) post metastasis resection (up to 5 fractions)

Metastatic Spine Tumors (NCCN, 2018)

- 2D/3D-CRT – 8-30 Gy (maximum 10 fractions)
- Dose/fraction dependent on tumor type and performance status
- Stereotactic radiotherapy/IMRT may be appropriate for re-treatment.

INDICATIONS FOR PROTON BEAM THERAPY:

Treatment of the following in children less than 21 years of age:

- Primary, metastatic or benign solid tumors when sparing of surrounding normal tissues cannot be achieved with photon therapy

Treatment at any age:

- Spinal tumors (primary or metastatic) where spinal cord has previously been treated with radiation or where the spinal cord tolerance may be exceeded with conventional treatment
- Tumors at the base of skull (chordoma, chondrasarcomas)
Requests for Proton Beam Radiation Therapy beyond the indications listed above require physician review by a radiation oncologist as outlined below to determine medical necessity.

TREATMENT OPTIONS REQUIRING ADDITIONAL CLINICAL REVIEW:

Intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT)
If IMRT is not indicated as a standard treatment option, a peer review will be indicated. IMRT may be appropriate for limited circumstances in which radiation therapy is indicated and 3D conformal radiation therapy (3D-CRT) techniques cannot adequately deliver the radiation prescription without exceeding normal tissue radiation tolerance, the delivery is anticipated to contribute to potential late toxicity or tumor volume dose heterogeneity is such that unacceptable hot or cold spots are created.

Clinical rationale and documentation for performing IMRT rather than 2D or 3D-CRT treatment planning and delivery will need to:

- Demonstrate how 3D-CRT isodose planning cannot produce a satisfactory treatment plan (as stated above) via the use of patient specific dose volume histograms and isodose plans.
- Provide tissue constraints for both the target and affected critical structures.

Stereotactic Radiosurgery (SRS) or Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT) (NCCN, 2018)
If SRS or SBRT is not indicated as a medically necessary treatment option, a peer review will be required. For patients with 4 lesions or more SRS may be appropriate in patients with good performance status and low overall tumor volume.”

Proton Beam Radiation Therapy
- Requests for Proton Beam Radiation Therapy require a peer review with a radiation oncologist. A treatment plan with a comparison to conventional IMRT/SRS may be required. See Proton Beam Guideline.

BACKGROUND:
There are many different types of brain tumors. Because brain tumors are located at the control center for thought, emotion, and movement, their effects on an individual’s physical and cognitive abilities can be devastating. Prognosis or expected outcome is dependent on several factors including the type of tumor, location, response to treatment, an individual's age, and overall health status. The most common CNS tumors are astrocytomas and glioblastomas, followed by meningiomas and a variety of other less common tumors. Metastatic brain tumors start in other organs, e.g., lung, breast, or colon and spread to the brain. In adults, these are more common than primary brain tumors. Both primary and metastatic brain tumors can readily spread through the brain or spinal cord, destroying and compressing normal brain tissue.
Surgery, radiation therapy and chemotherapy are the primary modalities used to treat CNS tumors, either alone or in combination. The first step in brain tumor treatment is usually surgical resection, with two primary goals: (1) removing as much of the tumor as possible while preserving neurological function and (2) establishing a histologic diagnosis. If the tumor cannot be completely removed, subtotal resection, (debulking) can increase the effectiveness of other treatments. Deep-seated tumors of the brain stem, e.g., pontine gliomas, are generally diagnosed and treated based on clinical and imaging evidence.

**POLICY HISTORY:**
**Review Date:** February 2019  
**Review Summary:** Added and updated references

**Review Date:** February 2020  
**Review Summary:** Updated references
REFERENCES:


Colorectal Cancer

INDICATIONS FOR RADIATION THERAPY

- Colon Cancer
  - Radiation Therapy is indicated for T4 tumors with penetration/perforation, intermediate/positive margins or for palliative care to relieve symptoms for Stage IV metastatic disease. Radiation therapy should not replace surgical resection.
    - 3D Conformal is recommended. 45-50 Gy in 25-28 fractions. Boost dose for positive margins an option (NCCN, 2018a).
    - IORT, if available, should be considered for very close or positive margins following resection, particularly for T4 or recurrent cancers, as an additional boost (NCCN, 2018a). Where IORT is not available, 10-20 Gy external beam radiation and/or brachytherapy to a limited volume can be considered soon after surgery but prior to adjuvant chemotherapy.
    - IMRT is not indicated as a standard treatment option and should be reserved for unique situations but may be utilized for re-irradiation of previously treated patients with recurrence (NCCN, 2018a). (Requires Physician Review)

- Rectal Cancer
  - Radiation therapy is considered a medically necessary for the following clinical indications: Preoperative or postoperative/adjuvant therapy or as primary therapy if tumor inoperable. Radiation therapy should not replace surgical resection (NCCN, 2018b).
    - 3D Conformal Radiation Therapy recommended. 45 -54 Gy delivered 25 -30 fractions at 1.8 -2.0 Gy per fraction. Boost may be an option. Dosage exceeding 54 Gy may be necessary for un-resectable tumors (NCCN, 2018b).
    - IORT, if available, should be considered for very close or positive margins following resection, particularly for T4 or recurrent cancers, as an additional boost. Where IORT is not available, 10-20 Gy external beam radiation and/or brachytherapy to a limited volume can be considered soon after surgery but prior to adjuvant chemotherapy (NCCN, 2018b).
    - IMRT is not indicated as a standard treatment option and should be reserved for unique situations but may be utilized for re-irradiation of previously treated patients with recurrence (NCCN, 2018b). (Requires Physician review)

- Proton beam is not an approved treatment option for colorectal cancer.
TREATMENT OPTIONS REQUIRING PHYSICIAN REVIEW:

Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT)

IMRT is not indicated as a standard treatment option and should not be used routinely for the delivery of radiation therapy for colorectal cancer. IMRT may be appropriate for limited circumstances in which radiation therapy is indicated and 3D conformal radiation therapy (3D-CRT) techniques cannot adequately deliver the radiation prescription without exceeding normal tissue radiation tolerance, the delivery is anticipated to contribute to potential late toxicity or tumor volume dose heterogeneity is such that unacceptable hot or cold spots are created.

Clinical rationale and documentation for performing IMRT rather than 2D or 3D-CRT treatment planning and delivery will need to:

- Demonstrate how 3D-CRT isodose planning cannot produce a satisfactory treatment plan (as stated above) via the use of a patient specific dose volume histograms and isodose plans.
- Provide tissue constraints for both the target and affected critical structures.

Proton Beam Radiation Therapy

Proton beam is not an approved treatment option for colorectal cancer. There are limited clinical studies comparing proton beam therapy to 3-D conformal radiation. Overall, studies have not shown clinical outcomes to be superior to conventional radiation therapy.

THE FOLLOWING APPLIES TO CMS (MEDICARE) MEMBERS ONLY:

*For Proton Beam and Stereotactic Radiotherapy refer to Local Coverage Determination (LCD), if applicable*

BACKGROUND:

Colorectal cancer, also called colon cancer or large bowel cancer includes *cancerous* growths in the colon, rectum and appendix. Cancer of the colon is generally treated with both surgery and chemotherapy. Surgery may be used in the treatment of all stages of rectal cancer. Preoperative radiation therapy and chemotherapy (neoadjuvant therapy) are given to shrink the tumor before surgery, resulting in improved probability for successful resection. Postoperative radiation therapy and chemotherapy (adjuvant therapy) may decrease local recurrence and improve overall survival. It may also be used for palliative treatment to relieve symptoms of metastatic disease. In addition, local recurrences that cause pain, bleeding or other symptoms are appropriately treated with radiation therapy.
POLICY HISTORY:
Review Date: February 2019
Review Summary:
• Removed section: ‘Pediatric Considerations’ for consistency with other GLs
• Added and updated references

Review Date: February 2020
Review Summary: No changes
REFERENCES:


Endometrial Cancer

INDICATIONS FOR RADIATION THERAPY AND TREATMENT OPTIONS:

Post-operative (NCCN, 2019)

- Brachytherapy Only (HDR or LDR, 5 fx maximum)
  - Stage IA – with adverse risk factors
  - Stage IA – without risk factors (Grades G2, 3)
  - Stage IB
  - Stage II – (Grade G1)
- External Beam Radiation Therapy Only (2D, 3D-CRT, 45-50.4 Gy, 28 fx maximum)
  - Stage IA – with adverse risk factors (Grades G2, 3)
  - Stage IB – without adverse risk factors (Grade G3)
  - Stage IB – with risk factors
  - Stage II – (Grade G1)
  - Stage III
  - Stage IV
- External Beam (2D, 3D-CRT, 45-50 Gy, 28 fx maximum) and Brachytherapy (HDR or LDR, 5 fx maximum)
  - Stage IA – with adverse risk factors (Grades G2, 3)
  - Stage IB – without risk factors (Grade G3)
  - Stage IB – with risk factors
  - Stage II – (Grades G1, 2, 3)
  - Stage IIIA & IIIB & IIIC (Grades G1, 2, 3)

Medically Inoperable/ Pre-Operative

- Brachytherapy Only (HDR or LDR, 7 fx maximum)
  - Stage I & II
- External Beam Radiation Therapy Only (2D, 3D-CRT, 45-50 Gy, 28 fx maximum)
  - All Stages
- External Beam (2D, 3D-CRT, 45-50.4 Gy) and Brachytherapy (HDR or LDR, 4 fx maximum)
  - All Stages

Palliative

- Up to 10 fx

Unless otherwise indicated standard radiation fractionation consists of 1.8 Gy to 2.0 Gy per day.

TREATMENT OPTIONS REQUIRING ADDITIONAL CLINICAL REVIEW:
Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT)

IMRT is not indicated as a standard treatment option and should not be used routinely for the delivery of radiation therapy for endometrial cancer (NCCN, 2019). IMRT is strictly defined by the utilization of inverse planning modulation techniques. IMRT may be appropriate for limited circumstances in which radiation therapy is indicated and 3D conformal radiation therapy (3D-CRT) techniques cannot adequately deliver the radiation prescription without exceeding normal tissue radiation tolerance, the delivery is anticipated to contribute to potential late toxicity or tumor volume dose heterogeneity is such that unacceptable hot or cold spots are created.

Clinical rationale and documentation for performing IMRT rather than 2D or 3D-CRT treatment planning and delivery will need to:

- Demonstrate how 3D-CRT isodose planning cannot produce a satisfactory treatment plan (as stated above) via the use of a patient specific dose volume histograms and isodose plans.

- Provide tissue constraints for both the target and affected critical structures.

Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT)

Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy is not a standard treatment option for the treatment of endometrial cancer.

Proton Beam Radiation Therapy

Proton beam is not an approved treatment option for endometrial cancer. Proton beam has not been proven superior treatment to conventional radiation therapy (NCCN, 2019).

THE FOLLOWING APPLIES TO CMS (MEDICARE) MEMBERS ONLY:

For Proton Beam and Stereotactic Radiotherapy refer to Local Coverage Determination (LCD), if applicable.

BACKGROUND:

The majority of endometrial cancers are adenocarcinomas, with uterine sarcomas accounting for <10%. This clinical guideline will focus primarily on adenocarcinoma of the endometrium.

After a diagnosis of endometrial cancer is made, it is followed by a staging evaluation to determine extent of disease (local, regional, or metastatic) and prognostic findings. For patients in whom cancers of the uterus are suspected, an endometrial biopsy is typically performed (NCCN, 2019). A review of the pathology will determine whether or not the tumors are of epithelial origin (endometrioid, papillary cirrus, clear cell, or carcinosarcoma) or stromal/mesenchymal carcinoma (stromal sarcoma or leiomyosarcoma). The majority of endometrial cancers, however, are adenocarcinomas with tumor typically confined to the uterus. Thus, this disease is often localized with an excellent prognosis. Current workup, including a complete surgical assessment, includes a histological grade, depth of myometrial invasion, and extent of extrauterine involvement. Prognostic factors are based on a
pathologic assessment and include the percent of myometrial invasion, myometrial thickness, tumor size and location (upper fundus or lower uterine cervical), cervix involvement, and lymphvascular space involvement. The majority of patients are treated surgically with radiation reserved for patients who are deemed at a high risk of recurrence or for those deemed medically inoperable (Klopp, 2014).

This guideline outlines several methods suitable for the employment of radiation therapy. This includes the use of 3-dimensional conformal radiation therapy and/or internal radiation (brachytherapy). IMRT is not indicated as a standard treatment option for uterine cancer. External beam treatments are typically delivered using a high-energy linear accelerator. Brachytherapy is generally delivered using temporary HDR sources such as iridium 192. The purpose of this guideline is to outline the most efficient, comparatively effective, diagnostic and treatment pathway. Treatment is typically broken down into patients in whom disease is limited to the uterus, cervical involvement (either suspected or confirmed), or extraperitoneal disease (Elshaikh, 2014).

**POLICY HISTORY:**
**Review Date:** February 2019  
**Review Summary:** Added and updated references

**Review Date:** February 2020  
**Review Summary:** Updated references
REFERENCES:


Gastric Cancer

INDICATIONS FOR RADIATION THERAPY
Three-dimensional conformal radiation therapy (3D-CRT) is the considered medically necessary for the following with the following clinical indications (NCCN, 2018):

- Pre-operative (Potentially Resectable) T2, T3, or T4 Any N, M0
- Primary Therapy (Unresectable/Medically Unfit) Any N, Any T, M0
- Post-operative -Surgical Resection T2, T3, T4, Any N or Any T, N+ or Positive margins, or M1

Dosage Guidelines:
- 45-50.4 Gy up to 28 fractions

TREATMENT OPTIONS REQUIRING PHYSICIAN REVIEW:

Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT) (NCCN, 2018)
IMRT is not indicated as a standard treatment option and should not be used routinely for the delivery of radiation therapy for gastric cancer. IMRT is strictly defined by the utilization of inverse planning modulation techniques. IMRT may be appropriate for limited circumstances in which radiation therapy is indicated and 3D conformal radiation therapy (3D-CRT) techniques cannot adequately deliver the radiation prescription without exceeding normal tissue radiation tolerance, the delivery is anticipated to contribute to potential late toxicity or tumor volume dose heterogeneity is such that unacceptable hot or cold spots are created. The role of intensity modulated radiation therapy, according to current National Comprehensive Cancer Network Guidelines may be appropriate in selected cases to reduce dose to normal structures, such as heart, lungs, kidneys and liver. However, uncertainties from variations in stomach filling and respiratory motion need to be taken into account.

Clinical rationale and documentation for performing IMRT rather than 2D or 3D-CRT treatment planning and delivery will need to:

- Demonstrate how 3D-CRT isodose planning cannot produce a satisfactory treatment plan (as stated above) via the use of a patient specific dose volume histograms and isodose plans.
- Provide tissue constraints for both the target and affected critical structures.

Proton Beam Radiation Therapy
Proton beam is not an approved treatment option for gastric cancer. There are limited clinical studies comparing proton beam therapy to 3-D conformal radiation. Overall, studies have not shown clinical outcomes to be superior to conventional radiation therapy.

Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy
Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT) is not an approved treatment option for the treatment of gastric cancer.

**BACKGROUND:**
For patients with resectable gastric cancer, radiation therapy has been used both in the pre-operative and post-operative settings. External beam radiation therapy alone is of limited use for patients with locally unresectable gastric cancer with no evidence of improved survival. Combined chemoradiation, however, does result in improved survival, and thus combined modality treatment is typically supported. The role of IMRT (intensity modulated radiation therapy) may be appropriate in selected cases to reduce dose to normal structures, such as heart, lungs, kidneys and liver, but should be considered on a case by case basis.

The goal of these guidelines is to delineate appropriate indications of the employment of radiation therapy in the treatment of gastric cancer and to define suitable methods of delivery of radiation therapy for these indications.

**POLICY HISTORY:**
**Review Date:** February 2019  
**Review Summary:** Added and updated references

**Review Date:** February 2020  
**Review Summary:** Updated references
REFERENCES:


Head and Neck Cancer

INDICATIONS FOR RADIATION THERAPY:

2D, 3D, IMRT and Brachytherapy techniques may be used as appropriate, depending on the tumor location and stage of disease (NCCN, 2018). Brachytherapy, where appropriate, may be utilized as a boost for 2D, 3D or IMRT courses of radiation therapy.

- Pre-operative radiation therapy
  - 2D/3D/IMRT – up to 35 fractions

- Definitive radiation therapy with or without concurrent chemotherapy
  - 2D/3D/IMRT – up to 42 fractions
    - Hyperfractionation - 81.6 Gy, 1.2 Gy per fraction BID (up to 68 fractions)

- Post-operative radiation therapy (up to 40 fractions)
  - Presence of adverse factors
    - pT3 or pT4 primary tumors
    - N2-3
    - Perineural invasion
    - Vascular tumor embolism
    - Extracapsular spread
    - Positive surgical margin

- Palliative radiation therapy if symptomatic up to 20 fractions

- Re-irradiation may be indicated if no metastatic disease present up to 34 fractions

TREATMENT OPTIONS REQUIRING PHYSICIAN REVIEW:

Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT)
Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy is not a standard treatment option for the treatment of head and neck cancer. SBRT may be indicated for reirradiation (NCCN, 2018).

Proton Beam Radiation Therapy (ASTRO, 2017)
Proton beam is not a standard treatment option for head and neck cancer and should not be used routinely. Proton Beam may be considered for advanced (e.g. T4) and/ or unresectable head and neck cancers. A physician review is required to determine medical necessity.

BACKGROUND:
According to the American Society of Clinical Oncology, about 3% of all cancers in the United States occur in the head and neck. The majority of these tumors are squamous cell carcinoma, with human papilloma virus infection, tobacco and alcohol use regarded as risk factors (ASCO, 2015). Due to the complexity of tumors arising from the head and neck region, it is not unusual for management to
include an initial evaluation and development of a plan by a multidisciplinary team, including surgery, radiotherapy, medical oncology, and dental. Although single modality treatment with either surgery or radiotherapy is not uncommon with patients with early stage disease, combined modality therapy is appropriate for the majority of patients with locally or regionally advanced stage of disease (NCCN, 2018). The primary sites for head and neck tumors include paranasal sinuses, the lip, oral cavity, salivary glands, oropharynx, hypopharynx, glottic larynx, supraglottic larynx, nasopharynx, and occult head and neck primary sites.

This guideline outlines several methods suitable for delivering radiation therapy to the head and neck area. Various radiotherapy techniques may be used as appropriate, depending on the stage, location, and expertise of the radiation oncologist (NCCN, 2018). Multidisciplinary management is recommended to best achieve tumor control while reducing toxicity (ASCO, 2015). These are generally accepted practice guidelines, however, cannot incorporate all possible clinical variations, and thus are not intended to replace good clinical judgment or individualization of treatments.

IMRT, 3D, 2D, and brachytherapy techniques may be used as appropriate, depending on the tumor location, stage of disease, and experience/availability of dosimetry/medical physics support (NCCN, 2018). Intensely modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) has been shown to be useful in reducing long term side effects in oropharyngeal, paranasal sinus, and nasopharyngeal cancers by reducing dose to normal surrounding tissue, including the salivary gland and brain (including temporal lobes, auditory apparatus, and optic structures). The application of IMRT to other sites of the head and neck is evolving with the recommendation to use at the discretion of the treating physicians. IMRT can be delivered with various dose fractionation schemes, including simultaneous integrated boost, sequential boost, and concomitant accelerated boost. IMRT has been shown to be beneficial in treating certain head and neck cancers by reducing dose to the salivary glands, brain, auditory apparatus, and optic structures. Low dose or high dose brachytherapy may be appropriate in certain cases.

**POLICY HISTORY:**

**Review Date:** February 2019

**Review Summary:** Added and updated references

**Review Date:** February 2020

**Review Summary:**

- Proton Beam Added: Proton beam is not a standard treatment option for head and neck cancer and should not be used routinely. Proton Beam may be considered for advanced (e.g. T4) and/or unresectable head and neck cancers.
- Added and updated reference

**REFERENCES:**


TABLE OF CONTENTS


Hodgkin’s Lymphoma

INDICATIONS FOR RADIATION THERAPY AND TREATMENT OPTIONS:

2D and 3D conformal radiation therapy techniques are considered medically necessary for treatment of Hodgkin’s Lymphoma (NCCN, 2018)

Stage I-II (nonbulky disease)
- Chemotherapy + radiation therapy (20-30 Gy) up to 20 fractions

Stage IB-IIB (nonbulky disease)
- Chemotherapy + radiation therapy (30 Gy) up to 20 fractions

Stage I-IV (bulky disease)
- Chemotherapy + radiation therapy (30-36 Gy) up to 24 fractions

Palliative
- Up to 10 fractions of external radiation may be indicated for symptom control.

Radiation therapy alone is uncommon (except for lymphocyte predominant Hodgkin lymphoma). If used, doses of 30-36 Gy (up to 20 fractions) is recommended for uninvolved regions, 25-30 Gy (up to 17 fractions)

TREATMENT OPTIONS REQUIRING PHYSICIAN REVIEW

Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT)
IMRT is not indicated as a standard treatment option and should not be used routinely for the delivery of radiation therapy for Hodgkin’s lymphoma. IMRT is strictly defined by the utilization of inverse planning modulation techniques. IMRT may be appropriate for limited circumstances in which radiation therapy is indicated and 3D conformal radiation therapy (3D-CRT) techniques cannot adequately deliver the radiation prescription without exceeding normal tissue radiation tolerance, the delivery is anticipated to contribute to potential late toxicity or tumor volume dose heterogeneity is such that unacceptable hot or cold spots are created.

Clinical rationale and documentation for performing IMRT rather than 2D or 3D-CRT treatment planning and delivery will need to:

- Demonstrate how 3D-CRT isodose planning cannot produce a satisfactory treatment plan (as stated above) via the use of patient specific dose volume histograms and isodose plans.

- Provide tissue constraints for both the target and affected critical structures.
Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy
Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT) is not currently an approved treatment option for the treatment of Hodgkin’s lymphoma. Recent studies comparing SBRT conventional radiation therapy are limited. If requested, this would require peer to peer review to determine medical necessity.

Proton Beam Radiation Therapy
Proton beam is not an approved treatment option for Hodgkin’s Lymphoma. Proton beam has not been proven superior treatment to conventional radiation therapy.

THE FOLLOWING APPLIES TO CMS (MEDICARE) MEMBERS ONLY:

For Proton Beam and Stereotactic Radiotherapy refer to Local Coverage Determination (LCD), if applicable.

BACKGROUND:
Due to the significant improvement in treatment for this disease, Hodgkin disease is further classified into classical Hodgkin lymphoma (that accounts for 95% of all Hodgkin cases) and lymphocyte predominant Hodgkin lymphoma. Staging for Hodgkin lymphoma is based on the Ann Arbor staging system (stage I-IV), further subdivided into “A” (no systemic symptoms presents) and “B” (weight loss of >10%, fevers, or night sweats). Unfavorable prognostic factors include bulky mediastinal disease, nodal mass >10 cm, numerous sites of disease, significantly elevated erythrocyte sedimentation rate, or B symptoms. Treatment recommendations are typically based on three subgroups of Hodgkin lymphoma: early stage favorable (stage I-II with no unfavorable factors), early stage unfavorable (stage I-II with any unfavorable factors as mentioned above), and advanced stage disease (stage III and IV). When radiation therapy is used for the treatment of Hodgkin disease, it is usually in combination with chemotherapy. If chemotherapy is used alone, radiation therapy can be used for relapse.

POLICY HISTORY:
Review Date: February 2019
Review Summary: Added and updated references

Review Date: February 2020
Review Summary: Updated references
REFERENCES:


Hyperthermia

CPT Codes: 77600, 77605, 77610, 77615, 77620

INDICATIONS FOR HYPERThERMIA WITH RADIATION THERAPY
- Superficially recurrent melanoma (Overgaard, 1995)
- Chest wall recurrence of breast cancer (NCCN, 2018)
- Recurrent cervical lymph nodes from head and neck cancer (Huigol, 2010)

FREQUENCY OF PROCEDURE
A maximum of ten (10) hyperthermia treatments may be delivered two times per week at 72 hour intervals.

CONTRAINdications FOR HYPERThERMIA
- The use of intraluminal, endocavitary, interstitial, regional deep tissue hyperthermia exceeding 4 cm. in depth and whole body hyperthermia are considered investigational.
- There can not be any evidence of depth of tumor recurrence greater than 4 cm.
  There can be no evidence of metastatic disease for which systemic chemotherapy or hormonal therapy is planned or being given.

NOTE: Hyperthermia is not approvable when used alone or in conjunction with chemotherapy.

BACKGROUND:
The FDA has approved hyperthermia in combination with radiation therapy for the “palliative management of certain solid surface and subsurface malignant tumors (i.e. melanoma, squamous or basal cell tumors, adenocarcinoma, or sarcoma) that are progressive or recurrent despite conventional radiation therapy”. The National Cancer Center Network recommends “that the use of hyperthermia be limited to treatment centers with appropriate training, expertise and equipment”.

OVERVIEW:
(Adapted from the National Cancer Institute, Hyperthermia in Cancer Treatment, 2011):

Hyperthermia is a treatment for cancer in which body tissue is exposed to high temperatures. Research has shown that hyperthermia can damage and kill cancer cells in some circumstances when it is used with radiation therapy.

**Local Hyperthermia** - Heat is applied to a small area only. Local hyperthermia is typically administered every 72 hours (i.e., twice a week) for a total of 10 to 12 treatments using applicators that are placed close to, or in, the tumor. Local hyperthermia can be administered using various techniques: external, intraluminal or endocavitary, and interstitial.
- **External Hyperthermia** - This technique is used for cancers that are on, or just below, the skin. The tumor is heated externally using applicators that are placed on, or near to, the affected area. Heat is then applied using high-frequency energy waves generated from a device outside the body (such as a microwave or ultrasound).

- **Intraluminal or Endocavitary Hyperthermia** - This technique may be used to treat cancers that are within or near to body cavities. A sterile probe that can be heated is placed inside the cavity where the tumor is. This heats the affected area.

- **Interstitial Hyperthermia** - This is used to treat tumors that are deep within the body. Under anesthetic, probes or wires are placed within the tumor tissue and then heated. This method allows tumors to be heated to a higher temperature than external techniques.

**Regional Hyperthermia** - Various approaches may be used to heat large areas of tissue, such as a body cavity, organ, or limb. This includes all of the following:

- **Deep Tissue** - This may be used to treat cancers within the body, such as cervical or bladder cancer. External applicators are positioned around the body cavity or organ to be treated, and microwave or radiofrequency energy is focused on the area to raise its temperature.

- **Regional perfusion** - In this procedure, some of the patient’s blood is removed, heated, and then perfused back into the limb or organ.

- **Continuous hyperthermic peritoneal perfusion (CHPP)** - This is a technique used to treat cancers within the peritoneal cavity. During surgery, heated chemotherapy drugs flow from a warming device through the peritoneal cavity. The peritoneal cavity temperature reaches 106–108°F.

**Whole-body hyperthermia** - used to treat metastatic cancer. This can be accomplished by several techniques that raise the body temperature to 107–108°F, including the use of thermal chambers or hot water blankets.

**Additional Terminology:**
Hyperthermia is also called thermal therapy or thermotherapy.

**POLICY HISTORY:**
Review Date: February 2019
Review Summary: Added and updated references

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Review Summary: No Changes
REFERENCES:


Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT) For Other Cancers

CPT codes: 77385, 77386, G6015, G6016

This IMRT guideline applies to other cancers not listed below for programs that manage all cancer sites.

Refer to applicable site-specific guidelines for the management of primary malignancies. Applicable site-specific guidelines may include all or some of the sites below, depending on the specific program.

- Anal Cancer
- Bone Metastases
- Breast Cancer
- Cervical Cancer
- CNS Cancer
- Colon Cancer
- Rectal Cancer
- Endometrial Cancer
- Gastric Cancers
- Head and Neck Cancer
- Lung - Non Small Cell
- Lung - Small Cell Lung Cancer
- Lymphoma - Hodgkin’s Lymphoma
- Lymphoma - Non Hodgkin’s Lymphoma
- Pancreas Cancer
- Prostate Cancers

For metastasis to the brain, regardless of primary site, refer to the NIA clinical guideline for Central Nervous System (CNS).

For metastasis to bone, refer to the NIA clinical guideline for Bone Metastases.

For all other metastases, refer to the NIA clinical guideline for Metastatic disease.

MEDICALLY NECESSARY INDICATIONS FOR INTENSITY-MODULATED RADIATION THERAPY (IMRT) (ASTRO, 2015):

- Anal cancer
- Esophageal cancer
- Prostate cancer
- Trachea cancer
- Thyroid cancer
- Head and neck cancer
- CNS lesions with close proximity to the optic nerve, lens, retina, optic chiasm, cochlea or brain stem. (See NIA CNS Clinical Guidelines)
- Primary Bone and Articular Cartilage cancer of the skull and face, vertebral column, sacrum, and coccyx
- Treatment for repeat irradiation of a field that has received prior irradiation.
- Vulvar cancer
- Pediatric patients less than 21 years with a radiosensitive tumor
CONDITIONS REQUIRING ADDITIONAL CLINICAL REVIEW

IMRT is not indicated as a standard treatment option and should not be used routinely for the delivery of radiation therapy for all other conditions including, but not limited to (ASTRO, 2015):

- Breast cancer
- Colon cancer
- Gastric cancer
- Gynecological cancer
- Lung cancer
- Lymphoma
- Pancreas cancer
- Pelvic bone cancer
- Primary or secondary liver cancer
- Rectal cancer
- Secondary bone and articular cartilage cancer
- Soft tissue sarcoma
- All other neoplasms not listed above as medically necessary

IMRT may be indicated for the above conditions if **ALL** of the following are present (ASTRO, 2015):

IMRT is strictly defined by the utilization of inverse planning modulation techniques. IMRT may be appropriate for limited circumstances in which radiation therapy is indicated and 3D conformal radiation therapy (3D-CRT) techniques cannot adequately deliver the radiation prescription without exceeding normal tissue radiation tolerance, the delivery is anticipated to contribute to potential late toxicity or tumor volume dose heterogeneity is such that unacceptable hot or cold spots are created. If IMRT is utilized, techniques to account for respiratory motion should be performed when appropriate.

Clinical rationale and documentation for performing IMRT rather than 2D or 3D-CRT treatment planning and delivery will need to:

- Demonstrate how 3D-CRT isodose planning cannot produce a satisfactory treatment plan (as stated above) via the use of patient specific dose volume histograms and isodose plans. 3D-CRT techniques such as step-and-shoot or field-in-field should be considered for the comparison.
- Confirm the IMRT requested will be inversely planned (forward plans or 'field-in-field' plans are not considered IMRT).
- Provide tissue constraints for both the target and affected critical structures.

BACKGROUND:

Intensity-Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT) is a computer-based method of planning for, and delivery of, generally narrow, patient-specific, spatially and often temporally modulated beams of radiation to solid tumors within a patient. IMRT planning and delivery uses an approach for obtaining the highly conformal dose distributions needed to irradiate complex targets positioned near, or
invaginated by, sensitive normal tissues, thus improving the therapeutic ratios. IMRT delivers a more precise radiation dose to the tumor while sparing the surrounding normal tissues by using non-uniform radiation beam intensities that are determined by various computer-based optimization techniques. The computer-based optimization process is referred to as “inverse planning.” Inverse planning develops a dose distribution based on the input of specific dose constraints for the Planned Treatment Volume (PTV) and nearby clinical structures and is the beginning of the IMRT treatment planning process. The Gross Tumor Volume (GTV), the PTV and surrounding normal tissues must be identified by a contouring procedure and the optimization must sample the dose with a grid spacing of 1 cm or less. Traditional “field-in-field technique,” which is neither MLC nor compensator-based, is not considered IMRT but rather external beam therapy.

The decision process for using IMRT requires an understanding of accepted practices that take into account the risks and benefits of such therapy compared to conventional treatment techniques. While IMRT technology may empirically offer advances over conventional or 3-D conformal radiation, a comprehensive understanding of all consequences is required before applying this technology. IMRT is not a replacement therapy for conventional radiation therapy methods.

POLICY HISTORY:
Review Date: February 2019
Review Summary: Added and updated references

Review Date: February 2020
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REFERENCES:


Health Care Authority, Health Technology Assessment Program. 


Hartford AC, Palisca MG, Eichler TJ, et al. American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology, American College of Radiology. American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (ASTRO) and...


Intraoperative Radiation Therapy (IORT)

CPT Codes: 77424, 77425

INDICATIONS FOR IORT:

**Breast Cancer**: Refer to NIA’s clinical guideline on Breast Cancer.
- Single Fraction Electron-beam IORT is considered medically necessary in accordance with ASTRO guidelines (Correa, 2017) if the following criteria are met:
  - Individual is 50 years of age or older with invasive cancer
  - T Stage: Tis or T1
  - Clinically node negative
  - Negative surgical margins

- The use of electronic brachytherapy for IORT (such as Intrabeam, Xoft and Papillon systems) is considered experimental, investigational and/or unproven.

**Cervical Cancer**: Refer to NIA’s clinical guideline on Cervical Cancer. IORT is indicated for local or regional recurrence of cervical cancer for centralized disease when previous radiation therapy has occurred (NCCN, 2018).

**Colon Cancer**: Refer to NIA’s clinical guideline on Colorectal Cancer. IORT can be used as a boost for recurrent cancer of T4 tumors with penetration/perforation and intermediate/positive margins. IORT can also be used as a boost for recurrent cancer (ACR, 2014).

**Pancreatic Cancer**: Refer to NIA’s clinical guideline on Pancreatic Cancer. IORT for pancreatic cancer requires review by a physician and may be reasonable for patients undergoing resection that may result in a closer involved margin (NCCN, 2018).

**Rectal Cancer**: Refer to NIA’s clinical guideline on Colorectal Cancer. IORT is indicated for rectal cancer with positive or close margins for T4 lesions or recurrent disease (NCCN, 2018).

**Soft Tissue Sarcoma**: IORT (with photons or electrons is considered medically necessary as boost treatment at time of surgery for cervical cancer, colorectal cancer, pancreatic cancer and soft tissue sarcomas if either of the following criteria is met (NCCN, 2018):
- Tumor has a high risk of recurring; OR
- Tumor cannot be completely removed (positive margins)

FREQUENCY OF PROCEDURE:
- A single fraction is allowed during surgery for the above situations.

CONTRAINDICATIONS FOR IORT
IORT is not indicated for any other cancer sites or scenarios other than those listed above, or when the above indications are not met. All other scenarios are considered investigational and not medically necessary.

BACKGROUND:
Intraoperative Radiation Therapy (IORT) is a radiation treatment that is administered during surgery. It allows delivery of radiation directly to the target area for cancers that are difficult to remove during surgery or in situations in which there may be microscopic amounts of cancer remaining after removal. IORT delivers higher doses of radiation than can be used in conventional radiation therapy because the doctor can temporarily move nearby organs or shield them from radiation exposure.

IORT is often combined with conventional radiation therapy which is typically given prior to or during surgery.

POLICY HISTORY:
Review Date: February 2019
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Review Date: February 2020
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REFERENCES:

American College of Radiology (ACR) Appropriateness Criteria®.


Metastatic Disease

INDICATIONS FOR THE TREATMENT OF METASTASIS:

BRAIN: For metastasis to the brain, regardless of primary site, refer to the NIA clinical guideline for Central Nervous System (CNS).

BONE: For metastasis to bone, refer to the NIA clinical guideline for bone metastases.

ALL OTHER SITES: For metastasis to any other site other than brain or bone:
• Conventional 2D and 3D-CRT treatment delivery is appropriate for all other secondary malignancies up to ten (10) fractions (NCCN, 2019).
  o Treatment beyond ten fractions for 2D-3D-CRT requires physician review and a clinical rationale for additional fractions.

TREATMENT OPTIONS REQUIRING PHYSICIAN REVIEW

• IMRT is not indicated for treatment of metastasis except for limited circumstances in which radiation therapy is indicated and 3D conformal radiation therapy (3D-CRT) techniques cannot adequately deliver the radiation prescription without exceeding normal tissue radiation tolerance, the delivery is anticipated to contribute to potential late toxicity or tumor volume dose heterogeneity is such that unacceptable hot or cold spots are created. If IMRT is utilized, techniques to account for respiratory motion should be performed when appropriate.
  o Clinical rationale and documentation for performing IMRT rather than 2D or 3D-CRT treatment planning and delivery will need to:
    ▪ Demonstrate how 3D-CRT isodose planning cannot produce a satisfactory treatment plan (as stated above) via the use of patient specific dose volume histograms and isodose plans. 3D-CRT techniques such as step-and-shoot or field-in-field should be considered for the comparison.
    ▪ Confirm the IMRT requested will be inversely planned (forward plans or 'field-in-field' plans are not considered IMRT).

• Selective Internal Radiation Therapy (SIRT), also know as radioembolization with microsphere brachytherapy device (RMBD) and transarterial radioembolization uses microscopic radioactive spheres to deliver radiation to the tumor site. Treatment is delivered through catheter injection of radioactive Yttrium-90 (90Y) microspheres into the hepatic artery. Indications for SIRT include: (ACR, 2015; Wang, 2018)
  o Unresectable metastatic liver tumors
  o Unresectable metastatic liver tumors from primary colorectal cancer
  o Unresectable primary hepatocellular carcinoma
  o Unresectable neuroendocrine tumors
• All other treatment approaches require physician review with presentation of clinical rationale and
documentation for the proposed treatment modality and plan.

POLICY HISTORY:
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REFERENCES:


Neutron Beam Therapy

CPT Codes: 77422, 77423

INDICATIONS FOR NEUTRON BEAM THERAPY

- Neutron beam treatment is indicated for salivary gland cancers that are inoperable, recurrent, or are resected with gross residual disease or positive margins (ACS, 2017).
- Other uses of Neutron Beam Therapy are considered investigational and therefore are not approved because its effectiveness for these indications has not been established.

BACKGROUND:
Neutron Beam Therapy (NBT) is a type of radiation treatment that uses a particle accelerator so is not readily available in most of the country. Protons from the accelerator create a neutron beam that attacks cancer cells with more power than conventional radiation therapy. Neutrons are much heavier than photons, thus appear to be more effective in destroying very dense tumors. With neutron beam treatment, the risk of side effects on healthy tissue near the cancer site is greater, requiring equipment to precisely focus the beam and block exposure to any surrounding tissue. Currently, both the availability and the criteria for use are very limited.

Overview:
NBT has been employed mainly for the treatment of the salivary gland cancers. It has also been used to treat other malignancies such as soft tissue sarcoma, lung, pancreatic, colon, kidney, and prostate cancers. Nevertheless, NBT has not gained wide acceptance because of the clinical difficulty in generating neutron particles and limited publications.

The safety and efficacy of neutron beam radiation therapy has not been established in the published medical literature. Complication rates were increased for NBT compared to other forms of external beam radiation therapy, and questions remain with regard to patient selection criteria, technical parameters, and comparative efficacy to other treatment modalities.

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REFERENCES:


Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma

INDICATIONS FOR RADIATION THERAPY AND TREATMENT OPTIONS:

Three-dimensional conformal radiation therapy (3D-CRT) or two-dimensional (2D) radiation therapy (2D) is the appropriate technique for treatment of Non–Hodgkin’s Lymphomas. The following include radiation dose guidelines for the following lymphomas:

- Follicular lymphoma (24-30 Gy, or 36 Gy if bulky) up to 24 fractions (NCCN, 2018a)
- Mantle cell lymphoma (24-36 Gy) up to 24 fractions (NCCN, 2018a)
- MALT lymphoma – Marginal Zone (24-30 Gy) up to 20 fractions (NCCN, 2018a)
- Diffuse large B cell lymphoma (30-55 Gy) up to 37 fractions (NCCN, 2018a)
- Primary cutaneous anaplastic large cell lymphoma: 24-36 Gy up to 24 fractions (NCCN, 2018d)
- NK/T Lymphoma
  - primary treatment: 50-55 Gy up to 31 fractions
  - combined modality: 45-50.4 Gy up to 28 fractions
  - Localized chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) and Small Lymphocytic Lymphoma (SLL): 24-30 Gy up to 17 fractions
- Palliative dose (up to 10 fractions) for symptom control

Unless otherwise indicated, standard radiation fractionation consists of 1.5 Gy to 2.0 Gy per day. (NCCN, 2018a)

TREATMENT OPTIONS REQUIRING PHYSICIAN REVIEW:

Intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT)

IMRT is not indicated as a standard treatment option and should not be used routinely for the delivery of radiation therapy for Non Hodgkin’s lymphoma. IMRT is strictly defined by the utilization of inverse planning modulation techniques. IMRT may be appropriate for limited circumstances in which radiation therapy is indicated and 3D conformal radiation therapy (3D-CRT) techniques cannot adequately deliver the radiation prescription without exceeding normal tissue radiation tolerance, the delivery is anticipated to contribute to potential late toxicity, or tumor volume dose heterogeneity is such that unacceptable hot or cold spots are created.

Clinical rationale and documentation for performing IMRT rather than 2D or 3D-CRT treatment planning and delivery will need to:

- Demonstrate how 3D-CRT isodose planning cannot produce a satisfactory treatment plan (as stated above) via the use of patient specific dose volume histograms and isodose plans.

- Provide tissue constraints for both the target and affected critical structures.
Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy

Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT) is not currently an approved treatment option for the treatment of Non Hodgkin’s Lymphoma. Recent studies comparing SBRT conventional radiation therapy are limited.

Proton Beam Radiation Therapy

Proton beam is not an approved treatment option for Non Hodgkin’s Lymphoma. Proton beam has not been proven superior treatment to conventional radiation therapy.

THE FOLLOWING APPLIES TO CMS (MEDICARE) MEMBERS ONLY:
For Proton Beam and Stereotactic Radiotherapy refer to Local Coverage Determination (LCD), if applicable.

BACKGROUND:
The incidence of non-Hodgkin’s lymphomas has increased substantially over the past few decades due to age-related disease. The majority of non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma originates in B-lymphocytes (80-85%) with T-lymphocytes comprising 15-20%. Natural killer cell lymphomas are very rare. The classification of non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma is based on the cell of origin (large B, large T, or large NK), precursor or mature lymphocytes, as well as genetic, immunophenotype, and clinical features. Radiation therapy is typically delivered to the involved field either alone or in consolidation following chemotherapy. CT-based simulation and 3-dimensional planning is typically advised.

The use of intensity modulated radiation therapy, as well as stereotactic body radiotherapy would be unusual. If requested, this would require peer to peer review to determine medical necessity. For nodal sites, radiation therapy alone or consolidation following chemotherapy should treat the involved field in most cases. Regional/extended fields are typically not recommended.

POLICY HISTORY:
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Review Summary: References updated
REFERENCES:


Non Small Cell Lung Cancer

INDICATIONS FOR RADIATION THERAPY

Three-dimensional conformal radiation therapy (3D-CRT) is considered medically necessary for the following clinical indications (NCCN, 2019):

- Post Operative Radiation Therapy (NCCN, 2019)
  - Positive Nodes (N 1-3) OR
  - Positive or close margins
  **Dosage Guidelines (NCCN, 2019):**
    - Extracapsular nodal extension or positive margins: 54-60 Gy up to 33 fractions
    - Gross Residual Tumor 60-70 Gy up to 39 fractions
    - Negative margins: 50-54 Gy up to 30 fractions

- Pre Operative Radiation Therapy (NCCN, 2019)
  - T3-4, N0-N1 OR
  - Resectable Superior Sulcus Tumors OR
  - N2 disease (Stage IIIA,T 1-3, N2)
  **Dosage Guidelines (NCCN, 2019):**
    - 45-54 Gy up to 30 fractions

- Inoperable – Definitive (NCCN, 2019)
  - Stage I disease (T1-2a, N0, M0)
  - Stage II and Stage III disease (T2b-T4, N0, M0 or T1-4, N1-3, M0)
  OR
  - Surgery Refused
  **Dosage Guidelines (NCCN, 2019):**
    - 60-70 Gy up to 39 fractions

Palliative Radiation Therapy is considered medically necessary for Stage IV (M1) disease to relieve pain, airway or endobronchial obstruction, and other symptoms (NCCN, 2019)

*Unless otherwise indicated standard radiation fractionation consists of 1.8 Gy to 2.0 Gy per day.*

**Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT)** is considered medically necessary for patients with inoperable Stage I or II disease or patients who refuse to have surgery (NCCN, 2019).
  **Dosage Guidelines:**
  - Delivered at 5 fractions or less

**Endobronchial Brachytherapy** is considered medically necessary for the following clinical indications (NCCN, 2019):
Patients with primary tumors who are not otherwise candidates for surgical resection or external-beam radiation therapy due to co-morbidities or location of the tumor

Palliative therapy for airway obstruction or severe hemoptysis in patients with primary, metastatic, or recurrent tumors.

TREATMENT OPTIONS REQUIRING PHYSICIAN REVIEW

Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT)
IMRT is not indicated as a standard treatment option and should not be used routinely for the delivery of radiation therapy for non small cell lung cancer. IMRT may be appropriate for limited circumstances in which radiation therapy is indicated and 3D conformal radiation therapy (3D-CRT) techniques cannot adequately deliver the radiation prescription without exceeding normal tissue radiation tolerance, the delivery is anticipated to contribute to potential late toxicity or tumor volume dose heterogeneity is such that unacceptable hot or cold spots are created. If IMRT is utilized, techniques to account for respiratory motion should be performed.

Clinical rationale and documentation for performing IMRT rather than 2D3D-CRT treatment planning and delivery will need to:

- Demonstrate how 2D-3D-CRT isodose planning cannot produce a satisfactory treatment plan (as stated above) via the use of a patient specific dose volume histograms and isodose plans.
- Provide tissue constraints for both the target and affected critical structures.

Proton Beam Radiation Therapy (PBT)
Proton Beam is not indicated as a standard treatment option and should not be used routinely for the delivery of radiation therapy for non small cell lung cancer.

Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy
Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT) is not considered a standard form of treatment for NSCLC except for inoperable Stage I and II disease. Other requests for SBRT will require a peer review to make a medical necessity determination. Documentation from the radiation oncologist must include the clinical rationale for performing SBRT rather than 3-D conformal treatment (ASTRO, 2013).

THE FOLLOWING APPLIES TO CMS (MEDICARE) MEMBERS ONLY:

For Proton Beam Radiation refer to Local Coverage Determination (LCD), if applicable.

BACKGROUND:
Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths of both men and women in the United States. The World Health Organization divides lung cancer into two types: non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) as discussed in this guideline and small cell lung cancer (SCLC). The most common lung cancer, NSCLC, includes various histologies: squamous carcinoma, adenocarcinoma, and large cell carcinoma. Surgery alone has been the standard treatment for patients with resectable NSCLC for many years.
However, patients with completely resected disease have disappointing survival rates. In some cases, relapse occurs at distant sites which suggest that NSCLC may be a systemic disease when diagnosed. Chemotherapy and radiation therapy are now treatment considerations in both the preoperative and postoperative settings.

Prognosis and treatment of NSCLC are based on the staging of the cancer which documents the extent of cancer growth and spread. The initial goal of staging is to determine if the tumor is surgically resectable. Some patients with resectable disease may be cured by surgery while others, due to contraindications to surgery, may be candidates for radiation therapy for curative intent or for local control.

This guideline outlines several methods suitable for the delivery of radiation therapy to treat lung cancer. These include the use of external beam radiation therapy such as; three-dimensional conformal radiation therapy (3D-CRT), endobronchial brachytherapy, postoperative radiation therapy (PORT) and stereotactic body radiation (SBRT). Endobronchial brachytherapy and SBRT are aggressive approaches justified, in part, for non-resectable tumors. While these advances in treatment offer a range of regimens, the goal of this guideline is to guide diagnosis and treatment to the most efficient, comparatively effective, diagnostic and treatment pathway. With the exception of medically inoperable tumors and extreme palliative circumstances, radiation treatment is performed, in most cases, in conjunction with surgical intervention.

POLICY HISTORY:
Review Date: February 2019
Review Summary: Added and updated references

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Review Summary: No Changes
REFERENCES:


Non-Cancerous Conditions

INDICATIONS FOR RADIATION THERAPY

2D or 3D Conformal (3D CRT) is considered medically necessary for several non-malignant conditions including but not limited to (McKeown, 2015):

- Prevention of keloid scars as an adjunctive therapy following excisional surgery
- Heterotopic ossification
- Pterygium in cases that cannot be medically managed
- Villonodular synovitis

Stereotactic Radiation Therapy (SRS, SBRT) is considered medically necessary when used in the treatment of non-malignant cranial lesions including the following (ASTRO, 2014):

- Arteriovenous malformation (AVM) of the brain or spine.
- Trigeminal neuralgia that has not responded to other, more conservative, treatments.
- Non-cancerous brain tumors such as acoustic neuroma, benign schwannomas, meningioma, hemangioma, pituitary adenoma, craniopharyngioma, neoplasm of the pineal gland, and chordomas

Also refer to NIA Stereotactic Radiation Therapy Guideline.

TREATMENT OPTIONS REQUIRING PHYSICIAN REVIEW:

Treatment for other non-malignant conditions utilizing proton beam, stereotactic radiation therapy (SBRT), or intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) modalities should be referred to physician review.

BACKGROUND:
Radiation therapy may have appropriate use in several non-malignant conditions. The treatment goal in patients with non-malignant conditions is to achieve relief of the indicated condition with radiation therapy with minimal risk of radiation exposure to sensitive structures.

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- Review Date: February 2019
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- Review Date: February 2020
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REFERENCES:


Maniakas A, Saliba I. Microsurgery versus stereotactic radiation for small vestibular schwannomas: A meta-analysis of patients with more than 5 years' follow-up. *Otol Neurotol.* 2012; 33(9):1611-1620.


Pancreatic Cancer

INDICATIONS FOR RADIATION THERAPY:

2D and 3D conformal radiation therapy techniques are considered medically necessary for treatment of pancreatic cancer.

Neoadjuvant (Pre-Operative) or Resectable or Borderline Resectable without evidence of metastatic (NCCN, 2019)

- No standard treatment regimen currently exists for this subset of patients. If neoadjuvant radiation therapy is delivered, a dose of 45-54 Gy in 1.8-2.5 Gy fractions or 36 Gy in 2.4 fractions are viable options.

Adjuvant (Post-Operative) Resectable Without Evidence of Metastatic Disease (NCCN, 2019)

- For resected cases (45-46 Gy in 1.8-2 Gy fractions) to the clinical target volume, followed by boost (5-9Gy). Up to 31 fractions.

Unresectable/Locally Advanced Without Evidence of Metastatic Disease (NCCN, 2019)

- Radiation delivered in 45-54 Gy (1.8-2.5 Gy fractions or 36 Gy in 2.4 fractions). Up to 30 fractions.

Palliative (NCCN, 2019)

- Radiation delivered in 25-36 Gy in 2.4-5.0 Gy fractions is usual for patients with metastatic disease who require palliation for obstruction or pain. Up to 15 fractions.

Local Recurrence after Resection without Evidence of Systemic Metastatic Disease

- Adjuvant chemotherapy or chemoradiation if no previous radiation given. Up to 30 fractions. (NCCN, 2019)

TREATMENT OPTIONS REQUIRING PHYSICIAN REVIEW:

Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT)

IMRT is not indicated as a standard treatment option and should not be used routinely for the delivery of radiation therapy for pancreatic cancer. IMRT is strictly defined by the utilization of inverse planning modulation techniques. IMRT may be appropriate for limited circumstances in which radiation therapy is indicated and 3D conformal radiation therapy (3D-CRT) techniques cannot adequately deliver the radiation prescription without exceeding normal tissue radiation tolerance, the delivery is anticipated to contribute to potential late toxicity or tumor volume dose heterogeneity is such that unacceptable hot or cold spots are created.

Clinical rationale and documentation for performing IMRT rather than 2D or 3D-CRT treatment planning and delivery will need to:
• Demonstrate how 3D-CRT isodose planning cannot produce a satisfactory treatment plan (as stated above) via the use of patient specific dose volume histograms and isodose plans.

• Provide tissue constraints for both the target and affected critical structures.

**Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT) (NCCN, 2019)**

*Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT) is considered medically necessary for the treatment of Pancreatic Cancer. If requested, a physician review is required.*

**Proton Beam Radiation Therapy**

Proton beam is not an approved treatment option for pancreatic cancer. Proton beam has not been proven a superior treatment to conventional radiation therapy.

**Intra Operative Radiation Therapy (IORT)**

The role of interoperative radiation therapy for pancreatic cancer is controversial but may be reasonable for patients undergoing resection that may result in closer involved margins. IORT may be considered on a case by case basis.

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**BACKGROUND:**

Pancreatic cancer typically occurs later in life. Risk factors include smoking, alcohol use, obesity, diabetes, and certain chemical exposures. Pancreatitis has also been shown to have an increased risk of developing pancreatic cancer. Surgical resection is potentially the only curative approach, but most patients present with more advanced stage disease. Overall, the actuarial five-year survival rate is approximately 20%.

The goal of these guidelines is to delineate appropriate indications of the employment of radiation therapy in the treatment of pancreatic cancer and to define suitable methods of delivery of radiation therapy for these indications.

**POLICY HISTORY:**

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**Review Summary:** Added and updated references

**Review Date:** February 2020

**Review Summary:**

• Stereotactic Radiation Therapy:

  Deleted: Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT) is not currently an approved treatment option for pancreatic cancer.

  Added: Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT) is considered medically necessary for the treatment Pancreatic Cancer

• Added and Updated References
REFERENCES:


Prostate Cancer

INDICATIONS FOR RADIATION THERAPY AND TREATMENT OPTIONS (NCCN, 2018):

Very Low Recurrence Risk (Primary Tumor Stage [T] is T1c, PSA <10 ng/ml, and Gleason score ≤ 6, PSA density <0.15ng/ml per g, < 3 biopsy cores positive with ≤ 50% cancer in each)

- Active surveillance (discussed with patient as treatment option)
- External Beam Radiation Therapy - Various fractionation and dose regimes can be considered depending on clinical scenarios
  - Highly conformal radiation therapy technique (3D-CRT/IMRT) – with IGRT (up to 45 fractions)
  - SBRT delivered at five fractions or less at 6.5 Gy per fraction or greater. Appropriate as a standalone radiation modality and not as a boost to other conventional methods of radiation treatment
- LDR (low dose-rate) or HDR (high dose-rate) Brachytherapy

Low Recurrence Risk (Primary Tumor Stage [T] is T1-T2a, PSA <10 ng/ml, and Gleason score ≤ 6)

- Active surveillance (discussed with patient as treatment option)
- External Beam Radiation Therapy - Various fractionation and dose regimes can be considered depending on clinical scenarios
  - Highly conformal radiation therapy technique (3D-CRT/IMRT) – with IGRT (up to 45 fractions)
  - SBRT delivered at five fractions or less at 6.5 Gy per fraction or greater. Appropriate as a standalone radiation modality and not as a boost to other conventional methods of radiation treatment.
- LDR (low dose-rate) or HDR (high dose-rate) Brachytherapy

Intermediate Recurrence Risk (Primary Tumor Stage [T] T2b-T2c or PSA 10-20 ng/ml or Gleason score 7)  
External Beam Radiation Therapy - Various fractionation and dose regimes can be considered depending on clinical scenarios
  - Highly conformal radiation therapy technique (3D-CRT/IMRT) with IGRT – (up to 45 fractions)
  - SBRT delivered at five fractions or less at 6.5 Gy per fraction or greater. Appropriate as a standalone radiation modality and NOT as a boost to other conventional methods of radiation treatment.
- Brachytherapy (LDR/HDR) boost combined with EBRT after 40 -50 Gy

High Recurrence Risk (Primary Tumor Stage [T] T3a or PSA > 20 ng/ml or Gleason score 8 -10 , or two or more intermediate risk factors)
External Beam Radiation Therapy- Various fractionation and dose regimes can be considered depending on clinical scenarios
  - Highly conformal radiation therapy technique (3D-CRT/IMRT) – with IGRT (up to 45 fractions)
- Brachytherapy (LDR/HDR) boost combined with EBRT after 40-50 Gy
Very High Recurrence Risk (Primary Tumor Stage [T] T3b-T4) with Gleason score 8-10 without Metastasis

External Beam Radiation Therapy - *Various fractionation and dose regimes can be considered depending on clinical scenarios*

- Highly conformal radiation therapy technique (3D-CRT/IMRT) – with IGRT (up to 45 fractions)
- Brachytherapy (LDR/HDR) boost combined with EBRT after 40-50 Gy

Radiation Therapy for Patients with Locally Advanced or Metastatic Prostate (T3b – T4, or any T and N1, M0 disease)

External Beam Radiation Therapy - *Various fractionation and dose regimes can be considered depending on clinical scenarios*

- Highly conformal radiation therapy technique (3D-CRT/IMRT) – with IGRT (up to 45 fractions)
- Brachytherapy (LDR/HDR) boost combined with EBRT after 40-50 Gy

Post-Prostatectomy

- External Beam Radiation Therapy
  - Highly conformal radiation therapy technique (3D-CRT/IMRT) Doses 64 – 72 Gy (up to 40 fractions) with IGRT
- One of the following must be met:
  - Detectable PSA or initially undetectable PSA, but with recent detectable and rising values on 2 or more measurements with no evidence of metastatic disease
  - Positive margins
  - Seminal vesicle invasion
  - Gleason 8-10

Pathological T3 disease

**TREATMENT OPTIONS REQUIRING PHYSICIAN REVIEW:**

The radiation treatment options below require review by a physician reviewer and may include deliberation on whether or not active surveillance and surgery have been considered prior to the decision to request radiation therapy:

- Brachytherapy alone (monotherapy) may be approved for Intermediate Recurrence Risk (Primary Tumor Stage [T] T2b-T2c or PSA 10-20 ng/ml or Gleason score 7) upon review with a physician reviewer. Brachytherapy alone is not considered appropriate if the patient has unfavorable or poor prognostic risk factors intermediate risk factors and is thus higher risk.

- Proton beam is not an approved treatment option for prostate cancer. Studies comparing proton beam therapy alone to 3-D conformal radiation or IMRT are limited. Overall, studies have not shown clinical outcomes to be superior to conventional radiation therapy (ASTRO, 2018a; Dutz, 2019; Fang, 2015; NCCN, 2018b; Santos, 2019).
BACKGROUND:
Prostate cancer is diagnosed by biopsy and evaluated (staged) to determine extent of disease (local, regional, or distant metastatic). Both surgery and radiation therapy is used to treat prostate cancers that are organ-confined or extend into tissues adjacent to the prostate. Daily prostate localization can be accomplished with imaging modalities, e.g., ultrasound images, computed tomography (CT) images, or implanted fiducial markers, incorporated into an image guided radiation therapy (IGRT) system.

Patients with very low risk disease should be considered for active surveillance if their life expectancy is less than or equal to 20 years. Active surveillance is as well, recommended for patients with favorable intermediate-risk prostate cancer. Observation is the preferred action for men with low-risk prostate cancer with a life expectancy of less than 10 years. Patients with intermediate risk disease may be considered for short course (4-6 months) of neoadjuvant/concomitant/adjuvant ADT. Patients with high risk disease may be considered for pelvic lymph node irradiation and 2-3 years of neoadjuvant/adjuvant ADT.

POLICY HISTORY:
Review Date: February 2019
Review Summary:
• External Beam Radiation Therapy: Added:’ SBRT delivered at five fractions or less at 6.5 Gy per fraction or greater. Appropriate as a standalone radiation modality and not as a boost to other conventional methods of radiation treatment’
• Added and updated references

Review Date: February 2020
Review Summary:
Proton Beam: Clarification of Proton Beam Guideline whereby the term localized was removed from the following statement: Proton Beam is not an approved treatment option for localized prostate cancer.
Added and updated References

REFERENCES:


Proton Beam Radiation Therapy

CPT codes: 77520,77522,77523,77525

MEDICALLY NECESSARY INDICATIONS FOR PROTON BEAM THERAPY (Requires Physician Review):

Treatment of the following in children less than 21 years of age:
- Primary or benign solid tumors (curative intent; occasional palliative treatment) when sparing of surrounding normal tissues cannot be achieved with photon therapy

Treatment at any age (ASTRO, 2017):
- Primary hepatocellular tumors treated with hypofractionated regimens
- Spinal tumors (primary or metastatic) where spinal cord has previously been treated with radiation or where the spinal cord tolerance may be exceeded with conventional treatment
- Tumors at the base of skull (chordoma, chondrosarcomas)
- Intraocular melanomas or other ocular tumors
- Patients with genetic syndromes making total volume of radiation minimization crucial, such as, but not limited to NF-1 patients and retinoblastoma patients
- Non-metastatic retroperitoneal sarcomas
- Re-irradiation cases (where cumulative critical structure dose would exceed tolerance dose)

OTHER TREATMENT OPTIONS REQUIRING PHYSICIAN REVIEW (ASTRO, 2017; NCCN, 2019):

For peer review purposes supporting documentation from the radiation oncologist is required and should include the clinical rationale for performing proton beam rather than 3-D conformal or IMRT or SRS.

Proton beam therapy has not been proven to be superior to conventional radiation therapy for all other indications including, but not limited to:

- Prostate cancer
- Breast cancer
- Lung cancer
- Colorectal cancer
- Cervical cancer
- Metastasis
- Gliomas
- Soft tissue sarcoma
- Head and Neck
- Pelvic
- Gastric
BACKGROUND:
Proton beam therapy (PBT) is a type of external beam radiotherapy that uses charged particles. These particles have unique characteristics including limited lateral slide, scatter, and tissue in a defined range, going for maximum dose delivery over the last few millimeters of the particles’ range. The maximum is called the Bragg peak. Proton beam irradiation when applied to treating cancer, uses different proton energy with Bragg peaks at various steps, enabling dose escalation to the tumor, minimizing excess dose to normal surrounding tissue. Over the years, proton beam irradiation has been applied to treating tumors that require dose escalation to achieve a higher probability of care, as well as tumors requiring increased precision in dose deposition while protecting normal surrounding tissue. Proton therapy has an over 40-year history in treating cancer, yet to date, there have been few studies that show superiority to conventional photon beam irradiation, especially with modern techniques.

POLICY HISTORY:
Review Date: February 2019
Review Summary: Added and updated references

Review Date: February 2020
Review Summary: Added and updated references
REFERENCES:


Flynn K. Brief overview: Reviews of proton beam therapy for cancer. Boston, MA: Veterans Health Administration Technology Assessment Program (VATAP); August 2007.


Skin Cancer

INDICATIONS FOR RADIATION THERAPY:

Basal & Squamous Cell Skin Cancer (NCCN, 2018a)
2D or 3D-CRT EBRT (electron/ photon) are appropriate techniques for treatment of basal squamous cell skin cancer for any of the following: definitive treatment for non surgical candidates, cancer surgery would be disfiguring, further resection needed post operative or adjuvant therapy for cancers at risk for recurrence. Fractionation and treatment schedules range from single fraction to 33 fractions. Longer fractionation is associated with improved cosmetic results.

Dosage and Schedule Guidelines
- 30-70 Gy to up to 38 fractions (NCCN, 2018a) (NCCN, 2018c)

Melanoma (NCCN, 2018b)
2D or 3D-CRT EBRT (electron/ photon) are appropriate techniques for treatment of Melanoma skin cancer for any of the following: adjuvant treatment after resection of primary site, regional disease following resection of nodes, local recurrent disease or palliative treatment.

A wide range of dosage / fractionation schedules is effective up to 38 fractions (NCCN, 2018b)

TREATMENT OPTIONS REQUIRING PHYSICIAN REVIEW:

Brachytherapy

LDR, HDR, surface or interstitial brachytherapy may be considered where excision or EBRT is contraindicated. Electronic brachytherapy is considered experimental and investigational at this time (NCCN, 2018a).

Intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT)

IMRT is not indicated as a standard treatment option and should not be used routinely for the delivery of radiation therapy for skin cancer. IMRT is strictly defined by the utilization of inverse planning modulation techniques. IMRT may be appropriate for limited circumstances in which radiation therapy is indicated and 3D conformal radiation therapy (3D-CRT) techniques cannot adequately deliver the radiation prescription without exceeding normal tissue radiation tolerance, the delivery is anticipated to contribute to potential late toxicity or tumor volume dose heterogeneity is such that unacceptable hot or cold spots are created. If IMRT is utilized, techniques to account for respiratory motion should be performed.

Clinical rationale and documentation for performing IMRT rather than 2D or 3D-CRT treatment planning and delivery will need to:
• Demonstrate how 3D-CRT isodose planning cannot produce a satisfactory treatment plan (as stated above) via the use of a patient specific dose volume histograms and isodose plans. 3D-CRT techniques such as step-and-shoot or field-in-field should be considered for the comparison.

• Confirm the IMRT requested will be inversely planned (forward plans or 'field-in-field' plans are not considered IMRT).

• Provide tissue constraints for both the target and affected critical structures.

**Proton Beam Radiation Therapy**
Proton beam is not an approved treatment option for skin cancer. Proton beam has not been proven superior to conventional radiation therapy.

**Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT)**
Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy is not a standard treatment option for the treatment of skin cancer. A peer review is required with a radiation oncologist.

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**BACKGROUND:**
There are three main types of skin cancer:
- **Basal cell carcinoma (BCC)**
- **Squamous cell carcinoma (SCC)**
- **Melanoma**

BCC and SCC are the most common forms of skin cancer and are collectively referred to as nonmelanoma skin cancers. Nonmelanoma skin cancer is the most commonly occurring cancer in the United States. BCC is the more common type of the two nonmelanoma types, accounting for about three-quarters of nonmelanoma skin cancers. The incidence of nonmelanoma skin cancer appears to be increasing in some areas of the United States. Incidence rates in the United States have likely been increasing for a number of years and at least some of this increase may be attributable to increasing skin cancer awareness and resulting increasing investigation and biopsy of skin lesions.

Melanoma is a malignant tumor of melanocytes, which are the cells that make the pigment melanin and are derived from the neural crest. Melanomas may arise from mucosal surfaces or at other sites to which neural crest cells migrate, including the uveal tract, although most melanomas arise in the skin.

Skin cancer is the most common malignancy diagnosed in the United States, with 3.5 million cancers diagnosed in 2 million people annually and the incidence increasing over the past four decades. Melanoma represents less than 5% of skin cancers but results in most deaths. Elderly men are at highest risk; however, melanoma is the most common cancer in young adults aged 25 to 29 years and the second most common cancer in those aged 15 to 29 years.

**POLICY HISTORY:**
Review Date: February 2019
Review Summary: Added and updated references

Review Date: February 2020
Review Summary: No Changes
REFERENCES:


Small Cell Lung Cancer

INDICATIONS FOR RADIATION THERAPY

Limited-Stage SCLC (T1-2, N1-N3 M0) (NCCN, 2019)
2D or 3D Conformal Radiation Therapy (3DCRT)

Dosage Guidelines:
- Up to 39 fractions is medically necessary

Extensive-Stage SCLC (T any, N any, M1a/b) (NCCN, 2019)
2D or 3D Conformal Radiation Therapy (3DCRT) Radiation therapy to treat symptomatic sites or treatment of cord compression

Dosage Guidelines:
- Up to 39 fractions is medically necessary

Prophylactic cranial irradiation (PCI) is indicated for Limited and Extensive SCLC (NCCN, 2019). PCI is used to decrease the incidence of central nervous system metastases and prolong survival.
  - 2D or 3D Conformal Radiation Therapy (3DCRT)

Dosage Guidelines
- 5-15 fractions is medically necessary

TREATMENT OPTIONS REQUIRING PHYSICIAN REVIEW:

Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT)
IMRT is not indicated as a standard treatment option and should not be used routinely for the delivery of radiation therapy for small cell lung cancer. IMRT may be appropriate for limited circumstances in which radiation therapy is indicated and 3D conformal radiation therapy (3D-CRT) techniques cannot adequately deliver the radiation prescription without exceeding normal tissue radiation tolerance, the delivery is anticipated to contribute to potential late toxicity or tumor volume dose heterogeneity is such that unacceptable hot or cold spots are created. If IMRT is utilized, techniques to account for respiratory motion should be performed.

Clinical rationale and documentation for performing IMRT rather than 2D or 3D-CRT treatment planning and delivery will need to:

- Demonstrate how 3D-CRT isodose planning cannot produce a satisfactory treatment plan (as stated above) via the use of a patient specific dose volume histograms and isodose plans.
- Provide tissue constraints for both the target and affected critical structures.
**Proton Beam Radiation Therapy**
Proton beam is not an approved treatment option for small cell lung cancer. There are limited clinical studies comparing proton beam therapy to 3-D conformal radiation. Overall, studies have not shown clinical outcomes to be superior to conventional radiation therapy.

**Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT)**
Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT) is not considered a standard form of treatment for SCLC cancer. Overall, studies have not shown clinical outcomes to be superior to conventional radiation therapy. A request for SBRT will require a peer review to make a medical necessity determination.

**THE FOLLOWING APPLIES TO CMS (MEDICARE) MEMBERS ONLY:**

*For Proton Beam Radiation Therapy refer to Local Coverage Determination (LCD), if applicable.*

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**BACKGROUND:**
The two major types of lung cancer are small cell lung cancer (SCLC) and non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). SCLC differs significantly from NSCLC in that most patients with SCLC present with subclinical metastatic disease. Patients with SCLC are divided into those with limited- versus extensive-stage disease (ACR, 2012). Although limited-stage disease is confined to the ipsilateral hemithorax, a third of these patients have subclinical systemic disease. Extensive-stage disease is defined as disease extending beyond the ipsilateral hemithorax, including positive pleural/pericardial effusion or distant metastases (ACR, 2012). Systemic chemotherapy is an essential component of appropriate treatment for all SCLC patients, even those with limited-stage disease.

This guideline outlines methods suitable for the delivery of radiation therapy to treat SCLC. Radiation therapy may be delivered using conventional, accelerated fractionation, hyperfractionated regimens and prophylactic cranial irradiation. Three-dimensional conformal radiation therapy (3D-CRT) is the preferred technique. If image guided radiation therapy is utilized, techniques to account for respiratory motion should be performed. The goal of this guideline is to guide diagnosis and treatment to the most efficient, comparatively effective, diagnostic and treatment pathway.

SCLC is highly sensitive to initial chemotherapy and radiation therapy; however, a cure is difficult to achieve because SCLC generally has a rapid doubling time, a high growth fraction, and early development of widespread metastases.

The treatment goal in patients with limited-stage disease is to achieve a cure with chemotherapy combined with thoracic radiation therapy. In patients with extensive-stage disease, this combined modality treatment does not improve survival compared with chemotherapy alone, but radiation therapy plays a role in palliation of symptoms. All patients with SCLC require systemic chemotherapy and where radiation therapy is utilized, it should be delivered concurrently with chemotherapy (ACR, 2012). Patients with both limited- and extensive-stage disease may benefit from prophylactic cranial irradiation.
irradiation (PCI), decreasing the incidence of central nervous system metastases and prolonging survival. Two-dimensional, post lateral fields should be used in PCI treatment.

**POLICY HISTORY:**
**Review Date:** February 2019  
**Review Summary:** Added and updated references  

**Review Date:** February 2020  
**Review Summary:** No changes
REFERENCES:


Stereotactic Radiotherapy (SRS) Stereotactic Body Radiation (SBRT)

CPT Codes: 77371, 77372, 77373, G0339, G0340

INDICATIONS FOR STEREOTACTIC RADIATION THERAPY:

- Arteriovenous malformation (AVM) of the brain or spine (ASTRO, 2014)

- Initial or recurrent primary brain tumor (e.g. acoustic neuroma, meningioma, hemangioma, pituitary adenoma, craniopharyngioma, low grade glioma, neoplasm of the pineal gland, glioblastoma multiforme, low-grade astrocytoma, etc.) (ASTRO, 2014)

- Initial or recurrent brain metastases for patient who have good performance status (ECOG less than 3 or Karnofsky status 40 or greater with expected return to 70 or greater with treatment) and controlled systemic disease (e.g. newly diagnosed, stable systemic disease or reasonable treatment options) (ASTRO, 2014). Refer to the clinical guideline on Central Nervous System (CNS) metastasis

- Non-operable spinal tumor (primary, recurrent or metastatic) that is causing compression or intractable pain

- Pancreatic Tumors (Physician Review Required) (NCCN, 2019)

- SBRT may be appropriate for patients with tumors arising in or near previously irradiated region to minimize the risk of injury to surrounding normal tissues (Physician Review Required) (ASTRO, 2014)

- Trigeminal neuralgia that has not responded to other, more conservative, treatments (ASTRO, 2014)

- Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer and all of the following (Videtic, 2017):
  - Stage I disease; AND
  - The lesion cannot be removed surgically either because the tumor location makes removal difficult, the member is not a surgical candidate, or if the patient refuses surgery

ADDITIONAL CLINICAL REVIEW REQUIRED:

Stereotactic Radiation Therapy (SRS/SBRT) has not been proven to be superior to conventional therapy and is not a standard treatment option for the treatment of the following conditions:

- Other non-central nervous system cancers unless noted above
- Lung (unless above criteria is met)
- Other cancers including but not limited, breast, colon, liver and pancreas
• Parkinson’s disease and other movement disorders (e.g. tremors)
• Epilepsy
• Chronic pain syndromes
• Treatment of functional disorders other than trigeminal neuralgia

BACKGROUND:
Stereotactic radiation therapy (SRT) is a method of delivering precise high doses of radiation to small targets, while minimizing radiation-related injury in adjacent normal tissues (ASTRO, 2014). SRT delivers high doses of radiation in a very short time frame as, between 1 and 5 fractions. There are two types of stereotactic radiation therapy, SRS and SBRT.

Stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS) refers to treatment of any intracranial site consisting of 1 fraction only. Stereotactic body radiotherapy (SBRT) refers to use at any extracranial site or any intracranial site consisting of 2-5 fractions (ASTRO, 2014).

POLICY HISTORY:
Review Date: February 2019
Review Summary: Added and updated references

Review Date: February 2020
Review Summary:
• Guideline updated to state that SBRT is medically necessary for pancreatic tumors and patients with tumors previously irradiated, Based on NCCN Guideline Updates
  o Added: Pancreatic Tumors (Physician Review Required)
  o Added: SBRT may be appropriate for patients with tumors arising in or near previously irradiated region to minimize the risk of injury to surrounding normal tissues (Physician Review Required)
REFERENCES:


Degen JW, Gagnon GJ, Voyadzis JM, et al. CyberKnife stereotactic


