Radiation Therapy Services: Intensity Modulated Radiation Treatment; Gastrointestinal System, Colon Cancer

POLICY INITIATED: 06/30/2019
MOST RECENT REVIEW: 06/30/2019
POLICY # HH-5267

Overview Statement

The purpose of these clinical guidelines is to assist healthcare professionals in selecting the medical service that may be appropriate and supported by evidence to improve patient outcomes. These clinical guidelines neither preempt clinical judgment of trained professionals nor advise anyone on how to practice medicine. The healthcare professionals are responsible for all clinical decisions based on their assessment. These clinical guidelines do not provide authorization, certification, explanation of benefits, or guarantee of payment, nor do they substitute for, or constitute, medical advice.

Federal and State law, as well as member benefit contract language, including definitions and specific contract provisions/exclusions, take precedence over clinical guidelines and must be considered first when determining eligibility for coverage. All final determinations on coverage and payment are the responsibility of the health plan. Nothing contained within this document can be interpreted to mean otherwise.

Medical information is constantly evolving, and HealthHelp reserves the right to review and update these clinical guidelines periodically.

Associated Procedure Codes:

Procedure Code Description	Code
Intensity modulated radiation treatment delivery (IMRT), includes guidance and tracking, when performed; simple	77385
Intensity modulated radiation treatment delivery (IMRT), includes guidance and tracking, when performed; complex	77386
Intensity modulated treatment delivery, single or multiple fields/arcs, via narrow spatially and temporally modulated beams, binary, dynamic MLC, per treatment session	G6015
Compensator-based beam modulation treatment delivery of inverse planned treatment using 3 or more high resolution (milled or cast) compensator, convergent beam modulated fields, per treatment session	G6016

Definition:

1. Intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) is a type of three-dimensional radiation therapy that uses computer-generated images to match radiation to the size and shape of a tumor. In IMRT, thousands of tiny radiation beams enter the body from many angles and intersect the tumor. Since the intensity of each beam can be controlled, the radiation dose can wrap around normal tissue, create concave shapes and turn corners. The aim is to deliver a higher radiation dose to a tumor with less damage to nearby healthy tissue.

Guideline:

Radiation therapy utilizing IMRT for colon cancer may be reasonable and appropriate when the patient's medical record demonstrates **EITHER** of the following:

- Treatment to be delivered consists of 10 fractions or less for palliative care;
- Treatment to be delivered consists of 30 fractions or less [9] and when compared to a non-IMRT technique, IMRT would substantially decrease normal tissue toxicity and **ANY** of the following:
  - The patient is high risk;
  - 3D plan has been performed and compared to the IMRT plan and the IMRT plan results in reduction of the small bowel by at least 20%; [9]
  - Patient has received radiation treatment to this site or an adjacent site. [3]

16945 Northchase Dr #1300, Houston, TX 77060 (281) 447-7000

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