

## Radiation Oncology: Brachytherapy

MPM 18.7

### Disclaimer

**Refer to the member's specific benefit plan and Schedule of Benefits to determine coverage. This may not be a benefit on all plans or the plan may have broader or more limited benefits than those listed in this Medical Policy.**

### Description

Brachytherapy is a procedure to place a radiation source directly into or near a cancerous tumor inside the body. The radiation source is in the form of seeds, ribbons or capsules. By placing the radioactive sources in or by the tumor itself, it allows a higher dose of radiation to a smaller part of the body, thereby reducing the dose to surrounding healthy tissues. See the list of covered indications below.

Intracoronary brachytherapy is used to prevent an artery from re-narrowing after angioplasty or stent placement, by delivering a small amount of radiation to the treated area. The radiation is intended to discourage the overgrowth of normal tissue as the healing process occurs. This treatment may reduce the need for additional angioplasty or bypass surgery due to restenosis.

#### **Other related medical policies:**

- Radiation Oncology: Proton Beam Therapy, MPM 16.14
- Radiation Oncology: Stereotactic Radiosurgery, MPM 18.9

### Coverage Determination

**Benefit Certification is required.**

**Presbyterian Insurance Company, Inc and Presbyterian Health Plan utilize HealthHelp's Radiation Oncology Services.**

These guidelines apply to all Presbyterian Health Plans. However, not all ASO plans participate in HealthHelp. Follow the instructions below to submit a Benefit Certification request.

To determine if an ASO plan is participating in HealthHelp, go to Presbyterian's website at:

<http://www.phs.org/phs/healthplans/providers/ProviderResources/index.htm>

(scroll down to *Advanced Imaging Ordering Program* and click on *HealthHelp Participation Status*).

**All plans except ASOs that do not participate in HealthHelp:** Log on to Pres Online to submit a request, click on *HealthHelp*:

<https://ds.phs.org/preslogin/index.jsp>

Not every Presbyterian health plan contains the same benefits. Please refer to the member's specific benefit plan and Schedule of Benefits to determine coverage.

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**ASO plans (nonparticipating):** Log on to Pres Online to submit a request, click on *Pres Online Providers*:

<https://ds.phs.org/preslogin/index.jsp>

**Indications for brachytherapy:**

- Breast cancer
- Gynecologic cancer
- Head and neck cancer
- Lung cancer
- Prostate cancer
- Soft tissue sarcoma
- Unresectable metastatic liver tumors from primary colorectal cancer
- Unresectable primary hepatocellular carcinoma
- Neuroendocrine tumors that have metastasized to the liver when systemic therapy is contraindicated or has failed to control symptoms.
- Intracoronary application following angioplasty or stent placement

**Exclusions**

All other indications except those listed above are excluded from coverage. This includes, but is not limited to, pancreatic cancer.

Electronic brachytherapy is not a covered benefit, as this technology is considered experimental and investigational.

**Coding**

**The coding listed in this Medical Policy is for reference only. Covered and non-covered codes are included in this list.**

<b>CPT Codes</b>	<b>Description</b>
19296	Placement of radiotherapy afterloading balloon catheter into the breast for interstitial radioelement application following partial mastectomy, includes imaging guidance; on date separate from partial mastectomy
19297	Placement of radiotherapy afterloading balloon catheter into the breast for interstitial radioelement application following partial mastectomy, includes imaging guidance; concurrent with partial mastectomy (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
19298	Placement of radiotherapy afterloading brachytherapy catheters (multiple tube and button type) into the breast for interstitial radioelement application following (at the time of or subsequent to) partial mastectomy, includes imaging guidance
20555	Placement of needles or catheters into muscle and/or soft tissue for subsequent interstitial radioelement application (at the time of or subsequent to the procedure)

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31643	Bronchoscopy, (rigid or flexible); with placement of catheter(s) for intracavitary application
32553	Placement of interstitial device(s) for radiation therapy guidance (eg, fiducial markers, dosimeter), percutaneous, intrathoracic, single or multiple
41019	Placement of needles, catheters, or other device(s) into the head and/or neck region (percutaneous, transoral, or transnasal) for subsequent interstitial radioelement application
55860	Exposure of prostate, any approach, for insertion of radioactive substance
55862	Exposure of prostate, any approach, for insertion of radioactive substance; with lymph node biopsy(s) (limited pelvic lymphadenectomy)
55865	Exposure of prostate, any approach, for insertion of radioactive substance; for insertion of radioactive substance; with bilateral pelvic lymphadenectomy, including external iliac, hypogastric and obturator nodes
55875	Transperineal placement of needles or catheters into prostate for interstitial radioelement application, with or without cystoscopy
55876	Placement of interstitial device(s) for radiation therapy guidance (e.g., fiducial markers, dosimeter), percutaneous, prostate, single or multiple
55920	Placement of needles or catheters into pelvic organs and/or genitalia (except prostate) for subsequent interstitial radioelement application
57155	Insertion of uterine tandems and/or vaginal ovoids for clinical brachytherapy
58346	Insertion of Heyman capsules for clinical brachytherapy
61770	Stereotactic localization, including burr hole(s), with insertion of catheter(s) or probe(s) for placement of radiation source
76873	Ultrasound, transrectal; prostate volume study for brachytherapy treatment planning (separate procedure)
76965	Ultrasonic guidance for interstitial radioelement application
77326	Brachytherapy isodose plan; simple (calculation made from single plane, one to four sources/ribbon application, remote afterloading brachytherapy 1-8 sources)
77327	Brachytherapy isodose plan; intermediate (multiplane dosage calculations, application involving 5 to 10 sources/ribbons, remote afterloading brachytherapy, 9 to 12 sources)
77328	Brachytherapy isodose plan; complex (multiplane isodose plan, volume implant calculations, over 10 sources/ribbons used, special spatial reconstruction, remote afterloading brachytherapy, over 12 sources)
77750	Infusion or instillation of radioelement solution
77761	Intracavitary radiation source application; simple
77762	Intracavitary radiation source application; intermediate
77763	Intracavitary radiation source application; complex
77776	Interstitial radiation source application; simple
77777	Interstitial radiation source application; intermediate
77778	Interstitial radiation source application; complex
77785	Remote afterloading high dose rate radionuclide brachytherapy 1 channel
77786	Remote afterloading high dose rate radionuclide brachytherapy; 2-12 channels

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77787	Remote afterloading high dose rate radionuclide brachytherapy; over 12 channels
77789	Surface application of radiation source
77790	Supervision, handling, loading of radiation source
92974	Transcatheter placement of radiation delivery device for subsequent coronary intravascular brachytherapy (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)

<b>HCPCS® Codes</b>	<b>Description</b>
A9527	Iodine I-125, sodium iodide solution, therapeutic, per millicurie
C1715	Brachytherapy needle
C1716 – C1719	Brachytherapy source ( <i>see HCPCS® for full description</i> )
C1728	Catheter, brachytherapy seed administration
C2616	Brachytherapy source ( <i>see HCPCS® for full description</i> )
C2634 – C2699	Brachytherapy source ( <i>see HCPCS® for full description</i> )
C9725	Placement of endorectal intracavitary applicator for high intensity brachytherapy
C9726	Placement and removal (if performed) of applicator into breast for radiation therapy
C9728	Placement of interstitial device(s) for radiation therapy/surgery guidance (e.g., fiducial markers, dosimeter), for other than the following sites (any approach); abdomen, pelvis, prostate, retroperitoneum, thorax, single or multiple
Q30001	Radioelements for brachytherapy, any type, each
S2770	Insertion of vaginal cylinder for application of radiation source or clinical brachytherapy (report separately in addition to radiation source delivery)

**References:** HealthHelp Radiation Oncology Guidelines

**Approval Signatures:** **Clinical Quality Committee:** Mark Whitaker, MD

**Medical Director:** Albert Rizzoli, MD

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This Medical Policy is intended to represent clinical guidelines describing medical appropriateness and is developed to assist Presbyterian Health Plan and Presbyterian Insurance Company, Inc. (Presbyterian) Health Services staff and Presbyterian medical directors in determination of coverage. The Medical Policy is not a treatment guide and should not be used as such.

For those instances where a member does not meet the criteria described in these guidelines, additional information supporting medical necessity is welcome and may be utilized by the medical director in reviewing the case. Please note that all Presbyterian medical policies are available on the Internet at:  
<http://www.phs.org/phs/healthplans/providers/healthservices/Medical/index.htm>