

CHAPTER 4
SECTION 4.1

RADIATION THERAPY/BRACHYTHERAPY

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I. PROCEDURE CODE RANGES

77261 - 77499, 77750 - 77799, 79440

II. DESCRIPTION

Radiation therapy is the branch of medicine that utilizes ionizing radiation in the treatment of malignant neoplasms. Hyperfractionated radiation therapy is the use of multiple small fractions of radiation given two or more times per day.

Brachytherapy is a type of radiation therapy in which the radiation source is placed within or very close to the body area being treated. Brachytherapy involves the use of radioactive isotopes as the radiation source, permanently or temporarily implanted, in the form of wires or seeds, into or near malignant tumors that are unresectable or recurrent following previous resection or radiotherapy. Commonly used radioisotopes include gold (198 Au), iodine (125 I), iridium (192 Ir), californium (252 Cf), cesium (137 Cs), and palladium (103 Pd).

III. POLICY

A. Radiation therapy, including hyperfractionated radiation therapy, is covered for those indications for which reliable evidence supports that the treatment is safe, effective, and comparable or superior to standard care (proven).

B. Fast neutron radiotherapy is covered for those indications for which reliable evidence supports that the treatment is safe, effective, and comparable or superior to standard care (proven).

C. Brachytherapy is covered for those indications for which reliable evidence supports that the treatment is safe, effective, and comparable or superior to standard care (proven).

D. Radioactive chromic phosphate synoviorthesis is covered for those indications for which reliable evidence supports that the treatment is safe, effective, and comparable or superior to standard care (proven).

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