

CHAPTER 4
SECTION 4.3

HYPERTHERMIA FOR TREATMENT OF CANCER

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I. PROCEDURE CODE RANGE

77600-77615 (includes management during the course of therapy and follow-up care for three months after completion).

II. DESCRIPTION

Local hyperthermia involves the use of heat to make tumors more susceptible to cancer therapy measures.

III. POLICY

A. Local hyperthermia is covered when used in connection with radiation therapy for the treatment of primary or metastatic or locally recurrent cutaneous or subcutaneous superficial malignancies.

B. Transpupillary thermotherapy (laser hyperthermia), with chemotherapy, is covered for the treatment of retinoblastoma.

IV. EXCLUSIONS

A. Local hyperthermia, as a sole modality or in connection with chemotherapy, for any indication other than retinoblastoma.

B. Whole body hyperthermia as a sole modality in the treatment of cancer.

C. Hyperthermia as a sole modality for recurrent breast cancer.

V. EFFECTIVE DATE November 1, 1996, for transpupillary thermotherapy.

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