

Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy Policy

CVS Health considers stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT) medically necessary for the treatment of many tumor types. SBRT is type of radiation, delivered over 1-5 fractions, that uses a high dose of radiation per fraction in appropriate clinical scenarios. SBRT is particularly useful in delivering high doses of radiation in few fractions to tumors located in proximity to vital structures, or to tumors when a higher biologically effective dose (BED) is required. SBRT can be delivered by a linear accelerator (LINAC), Cyberknife, or other similar technologies. Accounting for intra- and inter-fraction motion is a key component of the delivery of SBRT and can be achieved using a combination of body immobilization, the real-time use of skeletal landmarks, and/or fiducial markers. In certain clinical scenarios, SBRT has been shown to be superior in outcomes compared to standard fractionated radiation therapy delivered using IMRT or conformal radiotherapy. When considering the medical necessity of IMRT, CVS Health considers the cancer stage, the treatment intent, extent of disease, if the overall treatment plan incorporates surgery and/or systemic, and performance status.

CVS Health considers SBRT medically necessary for the following indications and after consideration of cancer stage, the treatment intent, performance status, and other clinical factors:

- Liver or hepatobiliary cancer, Stage I-II *or*
- Pancreatic cancer, stage I-III, unresectable; *or*
- Lung cancer, Stage I-IIA; *or*
- Prostate cancer, organ-confined; *or*
- Recurrent disease requiring reirradiation including:
 - spine metastases requiring palliation
 - any tumor that cannot be safely by other RT methods due to exceeding standard accepted dose constraints; *or*
- Metastatic Breast, Non-Small Cell Lung, Colorectal, Renal Cell, and Prostate Cancers, Sarcoma, and Melanoma who meet the following criteria:
 - 1-3 total metastases
 - primary tumor has been or will be definitively addressed and is currently controlled
 - all sites of metastases are being treated in this course of SBRT
 - N.B. this is inclusive of spine metastases

The final medical necessity will be determined based on the terms of the member's benefit plan. Please check benefit plan descriptions.

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