

IGRT Policy

Purpose

To describe the CVS Radiation Oncology External Policy for IGRT.

Scope

The scope of this document applies to CVS Health clients who have signed up for the CVS Radiation Oncology program under CVS Health Solutions. This document includes the external policy details for the IGRT policy.

Background

CVS Health considers image-guided radiation therapy (IGRT) medically necessary for the treatment of many clinical situations. Image-guided radiation refers to the use of on-board imaging on linear accelerators or other radiation treatment delivery systems. IGRT includes the use of kilovoltage (kV) x-rays and conebeam computed tomography (CT) in the daily imaging on the machine prior to the delivery of radiation to assure appropriate alignment and facilitate adjustments required.

Policy

CVS Health considers IGRT is medically necessary in the delivery of three-dimensional conformal radiation therapy (3DCRT) in the treatment of malignancies when the intent is curative. IGRT is also medically necessary in palliative treatment when the planning target volume (PTV) is in close proximity to a previously irradiated area. IGRT is not necessary when treating individuals with whole brain radiation without hippocampal sparing and for the treatment of bony metastases unless there is close proximity to a previously-irradiated area or critical structure

CVS Health considers IGRT medically necessary in the delivery of intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) and proton beam therapy (PBT). IGRT is also medically necessary during stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS)/stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT). However, for SBRT and SRS, IGRT codes may not be billed separately because they are bundled and included in the daily treatment codes.

CVS Health considers IGRT medically necessary in the delivery of brachytherapy for dosimetry calculations and source position verification.

CVS Health considers IGRT not medically necessary in superficial radiation therapy or electron beam therapy.

References

The IGRT policy is based on the following references:

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