

SIRT Policy

Purpose

To describe the CVS Radiation Oncology External Policy for SIRT.

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 SIRT policy.

Background

CVS Health considers the use of SIRT medically necessary for some tumor types. Selective Internal Radiation Therapy (SIRT), also known as radioembolization, is a procedure in which tiny radiation filled beads, called microspheres, are delivered directly to the tumor. The microspheres are delivered through a catheter placed in the femoral artery and threaded through the hepatic artery to the tumor site. The microspheres contain yttrium-90. Examples of this type of treatment include SIR-Spheres and Theraspheres.

Policy

CVS Health considers the use of SIRT medically necessary for the following tumors:

1. For treatment of neuroendocrine cancers (i.e., carcinoid tumors and pancreatic endocrine tumors) involving the liver. For carcinoid tumors, intra-hepatic microspheres are considered medically necessary only in persons who have failed systemic therapy with octreotide to control carcinoid syndrome (e.g., debilitating flushing, wheezing and diarrhea); *or*
2. For unresectable, primary HCC; *or*
3. For unresectable liver tumors from primary colorectal cancer; *or*
4. For unresectable and chemo-refractory intra-hepatic cholangiocarcinoma if member exhibits liver metastases only and has an Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) performance status of 2 or better with adequate liver function (serum total bilirubin of less than 2 mg/dL); *or*
5. Pre-operative use as a bridge to orthotopic liver transplantation for HCC.

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The SIRT policy is based on the following references:

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