

## Radiation Therapy Coverage, Coding and Reimbursement for New Technologies

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## New Technologies

to be addressed in this program:

1. IMRT – Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy
2. TomoTherapy
3. IGRT – Image Guided Radiation Therapy
4. SRS, SRT, SBRT – Stereotactic Body RadioTherapy
5. APBI – Accelerated Partial Breast Irradiation

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## Top 10 Reasons for Failing to Document / Failing to Bill

### Physics Consultations (77370)

10. "I don't have time" (write consult reports)
  9. "I don't do that" (write consult reports)
  8. Using blank template (no date, no name, using him for her)
  7. "The dr. won't order a consult / won't let me."
- ### Encounter form with no physics codes
6. "If code is not on form, it's not my responsibility to bill"

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## Top 10 Reasons for Failing to Document / Failing to Bill

5. "The doctors must be billing those services."
  4. "The physics consulting service must be billing those services." ...yes, but to the hosp
  3. "I didn't know these weren't being billed!"
- ### Fees / Units of service / No Charge
2. "We have lots of indigent patients and want to keep our charges low"
  1. 100 seeds billed with one unit of service...over and over and over again

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## 1. IMRT – Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy

- Highly conformal 3-D treatment
- Multiple beams, targets and doses
- Multileaf collimation (MLC)
- Rapidly growing popularity due to more accurate treatment delivery and attractive reimbursement rates

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## IMRT Coverage

- Reimbursement for highly valued **planning code 77301** is intended to include all other codes and services
- Do not separately bill isodose 77315, nor 77280-77370 (on the same day)
- CCI edits permit codes with a <sup>1</sup> suffix if a modifier 59 is applied (see text handout for additional CCI information)

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## More on IMRT Coverage/Bundling

- **Treatment Delivery 77418** includes most services and codes
- Except you may also report
  - Positioning (e.g. BAT 76950) & port films
  - Treatment devices
  - Weekly continuing physics
  - Special treatment procedure 77470-59
    - Make sure modifier 59 is applied
  - And for boosts: new simulation, dosimetry, and devices are allowed, but **not** 77315 isodose planning

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## Compensator Based IMRT

- New Level III treatment delivery code 0073T
- No relative values available for Level III codes

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Typical Coding for IMRT Course of Therapy
9924X – Initial Consult
77263 – Physician Plan
77290 – Pretreatment Simulation
76370 – CT Guidance
77301 – IMRT Plan (after CT imaging)
77334 – Treatment Devices (after planning)
77418 – Daily Treatment Delivery
76950 – Daily Ultrasound Set Up or
77417 – Port films as needed
77336 – Continuing physics (after planning)
77427 – Weekly Physician Management
77470-59 – Special Treatment Procedure

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## IMRT Revenues vs. Standard External Beam Revenues

- Planning \$815-\$1,000 vs. \$400
- Treatment delivery \$300-\$700 vs. \$100
- When IMRT becomes the standard, will these rates hold?

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## 2. TomoTherapy®

- Expands on IMRT concepts combining
  - Planning
  - Positioning
  - Treatment delivery
- Using spiral delivery pattern and movable couch

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## TomoTherapy® Coding and Revenues

- Same as IMRT, except
- Positioning on a daily basis
  - Tomotherapy = CT 76370 @ \$100-\$118
- vs.
- IMRT = BAT 76950 @ \$50 - \$68

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### 3. IGRT – Image Guided Radiation Therapy

- Image guidance tools are flourishing
- To improve precision of treatment and allow higher dose intensity
- To spare normal tissue
- Usually used with IMRT, but can apply to any 3-D treatment delivery



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### IGRT Technology Examples

- May include
  - Fluoroscopy (CyberKnife)
  - Electronic portal imaging (Portal Vision)
  - Ultrasound (BAT, SonArray)
  - Respiratory gating (RPM)
  - CT scans (High-Art)
  - Infrared tracking (CyberKnife)

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### IGRT Technologies

- Can include implanted fiducial markers such as gold spheres or cylinders
- Current codes are not a good match for the new technologies
- Billing daily frequencies may exceed payer guidelines



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### IGRT Coding and Revenues

Possible IGRT Codes	Hosp APC	Prof	Free Stand
		Comp	Tech Comp
76370 – CT Guidance	\$ 97.70	\$44.34	\$117.86
76000 – Fluoroscopy up to 1 hr	\$79.09	\$8.72	\$52.30
77417 – Electronic portal imag	\$43.87	na	\$23.88
77280 – Simple simulation	\$97.48	\$36.38	\$138.33
76950 – Ultrasnd guidance (BAT)	\$67.44	\$30.32	\$52.30
C9722 – Stereoscopy kV imaging w/infrared tracking	\$75.00	na	na
N/A – Respiratory Gating	na	na	na

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**4. Stereotactic Radio Surgery (SRS)  
Stereotactic Radiation Therapy (SRT)  
Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT)**

- SRS began with brain tumors
- SRT and SBRT expanded to extra-cranial lesions
- Compares to surgery

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**SRT Coverage**

- Medicare allows brain, neck, spine, lung, pancreas, prostate, bone, and liver
- Aetna only recognizes cranial and CNS tumors of spine
- Make sure your staff faithfully obtains prior authorization (except Medicare)

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**SRT Coding & Reimbursement**

- Medicare uses “G” codes for hospital outpatients
- If you are in a free-standing setting, “G” codes do not apply and payment may be limited
- Contact the payer for coding preference

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**SRT Coding & Reimbursement**

<i>Treatment Planning Codes</i>	<i>Hosp APC</i>	<i>Prof Comp</i>	<i>Free Standing Tech Comp</i>
77295 – 3-D Plan	\$813.57	\$237.24	\$1,114.57
G0242 – Cobalt 60 Plan	\$1,450	\$0.00	\$0.00
G0338 – Linac Plan	\$1,150	\$0.00	\$0.00

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## SRT Coding & Reimbursement

<i>Treatment Delivery Codes</i>	<i>APC</i>	<i>F/S TC</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Standard</b></li> </ul>		
77413 – Std Treatment Delivery	\$ 124	\$ 93.23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Cobalt 60</b></li> </ul>		
G0243 – Treatment Delivery	\$5,250	na
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Linac</b></li> </ul>		
G0173 – Linac one session only	\$5,250	na
G0251 – Linac fractionated	\$1,150	na
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Robotic</b></li> </ul>		
G0339 – Linac 1 or 1 <sup>st</sup> session	\$5,250	na
G0340 – Linac 2nd thru5th sessn	\$3,750	na

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## Stereotactic Bundling

- Planning codes and “G” codes include most other radiation CPTs except
  - Phys plan 77263,
  - Port films 77417, and
  - Treatment device codes 77332-77334 with mod 59
  - Plus Dosimetry 77300 (per ACR) with mod 59

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## 5. APBI - Accelerated Partial Breast Irradiation

- Proxima has developed a new type of brachytherapy system called MammoSite
- Targets just the tumor area in early stage breast cancer
- Treatment is 4-5 days rather than 5-6 weeks

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## APBI Features

- High dose interstitial brachytherapy
- Delivered via balloon catheters
- Placed into lumpectomy cavity
- 3-D conformal planning
- Two treatments per day (BID) – *Modifier 59 is required in order to be paid for 2 tx*

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## APBI Coding

- Guidance / placement / positioning codes include
  - 76950 – US guidance
  - 76965 – Echo interstitial
  - 77280 – Simple simulation (daily?)
  - 76370 – CT guidance

*IF performed and documented*

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## APBI Coding

- **Treatment planning**
  - 77295 for 3-D planning  
– or –
  - 77290 Complex simulation with
  - 76370 CT guidance, and
  - 77326 Brachytherapy isodose (simple)

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## APBI Coding for Sources

- IR192 radioactive source is reported as
- C1717 by hospitals, **per source**
  - Sources are not paid with HDR in a free-standing setting according to Medicare.
  - But for **non**-HDR sources in F/S or ASC facilities: use Q3001 for *radioelements for brachytherapy*, **any type, each** (Q3001 replaces 79900 in 2005)

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**Thanks for coming!**

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