

The Cutting Edge

Accuray's Health Policy & Payment Newsletter

June 2008

We listen to your feedback, keep it coming!

Thanks for your reviews and suggestions regarding the May edition of The Cutting Edge. We received many positive responses including some suggestions on future topics.

Are there other topics you have questions about? Please let us know by mailing your ideas and suggestions to:

ReimbursementService@Accuray.com

Coding Corner

by Deb Mills

Boosting with SRS

Recently, the Health Policy and Payment (HP&P) Team received a number of calls seeking information related to the use of the CyberKnife System[®] as a boost after standard radiation therapy. We completed a review of the coding principles for boosting that included multiple Medicare local coverage policies, the 2008 ASTRO Coding guide and an October 2007 feature article in the AMA CPT Coding Assistant. Each of these references confirms that it is appropriate to report SRS as a boost following standard radiation therapy.

What is the correct number of 77300 - Dosimetry Calculations to bill with an SRS procedure?

Of course we can't tell you the exact number because not each procedure is the same, however the 2008 Supplement to The ASTRO/ACR Guide to Radiation Oncology Coding 2007 may help. The following statement is found regarding billing 77300 for SRS, "Because of the complexity of the process, a treatment course utilizing Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT) and stereotactic radiation treatments may require ten or more calculations".

That might sound familiar to you!

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General Updates

July 24th Reimbursement Webcast Registration

Registration information for the July 24th Reimbursement webcast is provided below. This is a general 2008 coding and Medicare reimbursement update. We are also providing a Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) update along with any change in rates for codes used with SRS procedures.

You can register any time between now and July 24th for this webcast. Feel free to copy, paste and forward this registration information to others interested in attending.

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Hello,

Dirk Sutherland invites you to attend this online meeting.

Topic: Accuray 2008 Reimbursement Webcast
Date: Thursday, July 24, 2008
Time: 1:00 pm, Central Daylight Time (GMT -05:00, Chicago)

To register for this meeting

- 1. Go to <https://accuray.webex.com/accuray/j.php?ED=99945902&RG=1>
2. Register for the meeting.

Once the host approves your request, you will receive a confirmation email with instructions for joining the meeting.

For assistance

- 1. Go to <https://accuray.webex.com/accuray/mc>
2. Click "Assistance".
3. Click "Support".

You can contact me via email at:

dsutherland@accuray.com

Collateral Collection

by Dirk
Sutherland

Sample Charge Capture Models

Each year Medicare adjusts the HCPCS code set and the AMA adjusts their CPT® code set. Along with these adjustments, professional societies such as ACRO, ASTRO/ACR and others make recommendations of the use of codes.

To help you keep track of these changes and recommendations and their impact

on billing CyberKnife SRS procedures, Accuray creates a set of Sample Charge Capture Models. The following models are available for 2008.

- Outpatient Hospital Technical Sample Charge Capture Model
- Professional Hospital Sample Charge Capture Model
- Physician Office Technical Sample Charge Capture Model
- Physician Office Global Sample Charge Capture Model

If you would like a copy of any of these Sample Charge Capture Models, contact your Accuray Account Manager or Sales Representative.

Medicare Minute

by Dirk
Sutherland

Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) changes slated for July 1st, 2008

Congress's inability to produce a legislation fix prior to their July 4th recess will result in a PFS reduction of 10.6% effective July 1st, 2008. If congress is able to legislate a fix that results in something other than the 10.6% reduction, CMS stated they will retroactively correct claims processed between July 1st and the implementation of the fix date. Accuray will send an update on the impact to SRS related codes once the final decision is made.

Medicare 2009 proposed PFS and OPPS rules will be posted soon

Medicare will soon complete the 2009 Proposed rules for the PFS and Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS). We don't expect the proposed rules to be published until after July 1st, or later than early August.

A possible Stark update may be included in the PFS rules. This could come in the proposed rules or the final rules.

As in the past, Accuray's HP&P team will immediately notify our customers of the rule publication. Within a week of publication we will follow-up with a summary of the impact, if any, on SRS Medicare policy and reimbursement. After the rule CMS allows for a comment period, reviews the comments and publishes a final rule usually some time late in November. Accuray will communicate the effects of the final rule to our customers using the same process as the proposed rule.

The Policy Place

by Susan
Thompson

Cigna Healthcare Updates Their SRS Coverage Position

Cigna Healthcare revised its Stereotactic Radiosurgery Coverage position

(revision date May 15, 2008) after an annual review of the literature, professional society guidelines and other sources of information. The notable changes to these guidelines are as follows:

- Coverage position now includes the term "fractionated radiotherapy" throughout in addition to the term "stereotactic radiosurgery"
- Several supporting references for the treatment of intracranial indications have been added
- The policy clarifies that SRS for the treatment of liver tumors, non small cell lung cancer or pulmonary metastases, and renal cell carcinoma is covered when these neoplasms are unresectable, the patient is a poor surgical candidate or declines surgery
- Updates were made to the "Professional Societies/Organizations" section including changes to the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Guidelines for NSCLC, addition of the American College of Radiology (ACR) Appropriateness Criteria for the treatment of brain metastases and NSCLC and addition of the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) Procedural guidance on the use of SRS for the treatment of Trigeminal Neuralgia
- All references to Hayes Assessments have been removed

Cigna's revised coverage position can be found by clicking on the following link: [Full copy of Cigna's revised coverage position](#)

Wisconsin Physicians Service Insurance (WPS) Posts Their Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT) Policy

The following indications are effective for the states of Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin effective July 16, 2008

A copy of the entire policy can be downloaded using the following link:

http://www.wpsmedicare.com/part_b/policy/rad039.pdf

Indications

A. SBRT for lung, liver, kidney, adrenal and, or pancreas neoplasms:
SBRT is covered for primary and metastatic tumors of the lung, liver, kidney, or pancreas when the policy coverage criteria are met and documented in the medical record (see policy for coverage criteria).

B. SBRT for Prostate Neoplasms
SBRT of the prostate is covered as monotherapy for patients with low risk and low/intermediate risk prostate cancer when the policy coverage criteria are met and documented in the medical record (see policy for coverage criteria).

C. Other Neoplasms:
Lesions of bone, breast, uterus, ovary and other internal organs not listed above

are not covered for primary definitive SBRT as literature does not support an outcome advantage over other conventional radiation modalities, but may be appropriate for SBRT in the setting of recurrence after conventional radiation modalities.

D. Other Indications for SBRT:

Except as above, any lesion with a documented necessity to treat using a high dose per fraction of radiation. When using high radiation doses per fraction, high precision is required to avoid surrounding normal tissue exposure. Lesions which have received previous radiotherapy or are immediately adjacent to previously irradiated fields, where the additional precision of stereotactic radiotherapy is required to avoid unacceptable tissue radiation will be covered when other conditions of coverage are met (see Limitations below) and this necessity is documented in the medical record.

Limitations:

Coverage will be denied for each of the following:

1. Treatment unlikely to result in clinical cancer control and/or functional improvement.
2. Patients with wide-spread cerebral or extra-cranial metastases
3. Patients with poor performance status (Karnofsky Performance Status less than 40)

WPS Policy - Reporting the Surgeons Role in Stereotactic Radiosurgery

Included in the policy referenced above is a new process for the surgeons reporting their role in Stereotactic Radiosurgery.

Beginning July 16, 2008, in IL, MI, MN and WI, WPS designated the following codes to be reported for the surgeons role in stereotactic radiosurgery (one or more sessions). Payment should be made similar to code 61793.

These codes can be reported electronically.

IMPORTANT: Place the term "stereotactic radiosurgery" in Item 19 on the claim form. These codes can only be billed once per course of treatment.

32999 Lungs and Pleura
47399 Liver
48999 Pancreas
53899 Renal
55899 Prostate

California Technology Assessment Forum (CTAF)

On June 18, 2008 the CTAF held an open meeting in Los Angeles during which SBRT was reviewed for the treatment of NSCLC. The initial draft recommendation was not supportive of the use of SBRT for the treatment of early stage lung cancer. However, after hearing testimony from several stakeholders, many of whom were physicians who perform SRS, the panel put forth an alternate recommendation that was passed by a vote of 6 to 4. The alternate recommendation will be:

"In medically inoperable patients with early stage NSCLC, SBRT is recommended for peripheral lesions. These cases have few options and the current evidence suggests SBRT is better than conventional XRT."

It is expected that the revised recommendation will be posted on the CTAF Website in the coming weeks. More information can be found on the CTAF Website at: www.ctaf.org

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Save the date for the 8th Annual CyberKnife® Users' Meeting

8th Annual CyberKnife® Users' Meeting

**Mark your calendar for the
2009 CyberKnife Users' Meeting**

February 4-8, 2008
Westin Diplomat Resort & Spa
Hollywood, Florida

KEY DATES

Abstract Submission Opens: JULY 1, 2008

Abstract Submission Closes: SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

Conference Registration Opens: SEPTEMBER 15,
2008

Your Health Policy & Payment Team

Quentin Heim - Vice President of Reimbursement & Health Economics
Wendy Wifler - Senior Director Health Policy & Payment
Dirk Sutherland - Reimbursement Program Manager
Debra Mills - Clinical Coding Manager
Susan Thompson - Health Policy Payment Manager - USA
Jack Kennedy - Reimbursement Specialist, West Region
Olivier Menage - Health Policy Payment Manager - Europe

We like feedback! Please email your comments and suggestions for future articles to: ReimbursementService@Accuray.com

Thanks for your time!

June 08

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