INTRAOPERATIVE RADIATION THERAPY

Coverage for services, procedures, medical devices and drugs are dependent upon benefit eligibility as outlined in the member’s specific benefit plan. This Medical Coverage Guideline must be read in its entirety to determine coverage eligibility, if any.

The section identified as “Description” defines or describes a service, procedure, medical device or drug and is in no way intended as a statement of medical necessity and/or coverage.

The section identified as “Criteria” defines criteria to determine whether a service, procedure, medical device or drug is considered medically necessary or experimental or investigational.

State or federal mandates, e.g., FEP program, may dictate that any drug, device or biological product approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) may not be considered experimental or investigational and thus the drug, device or biological product may be assessed only on the basis of medical necessity.

Medical Coverage Guidelines are subject to change as new information becomes available.

For purposes of this Medical Coverage Guideline, the terms "experimental" and "investigational" are considered to be interchangeable.

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Description:

Intraoperative radiation therapy (IORT) is a technique to increase the intensity of radiation delivered directly to tumors. The tumor and associated tissues at risk for metastatic spread are directly visualized during surgery and IORT is delivered directly to the tumor. Normal or uninvolved tissues are not exposed to radiation because they are removed or shielded from the treatment field.
INTRAOPERATIVE RADIATION THERAPY (cont.)

Criteria:

For intraoperative accelerated partial breast irradiation for treatment of breast cancer, see BCBSAZ Medical Coverage Guideline, “Brachytherapy for Treatment of Breast Cancer”.

➢ Intraoperative radiation therapy for the treatment of rectal cancer is considered medically necessary with documentation of ANY of the following:

1. T4 lesions with positive or close margins
2. Recurrent disease

➢ Intraoperative radiation therapy for all other indications not previously listed or if above criteria not met is considered experimental or investigational based upon:

1. Insufficient scientific evidence to permit conclusions concerning the effect on health outcomes, and
2. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome, and
3. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome as much as, or more than, established alternatives.

Resources:


INTRAOPERATIVE RADIATION THERAPY (cont.)

Resources: (cont.)


INTRAOPERATIVE RADIATION THERAPY (cont.)

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