Ontario Health
Cancer Care Ontario

Policy owner: Radiation Treatment Program **Effective Date:** November 1, 2005

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Policy: Prostate Brachytherapy Reimbursement Program

Purpose:

To provide users with an online reference regarding pertinent information with respect to the Prostate Brachytherapy Reimbursement Program at Ontario Health (OH).

Policy Statement:

General background

The current brachytherapy reimbursement program is focused on prostate cancer patients. The program reimburses Integrated Cancer Programs (ICPs) for the costs of I-125 seeds and needles used in prostate brachytherapy treatments. Reimbursement is contingent upon compliance with patient eligibility criteria based on an evidence-based summary for this treatment. In addition to being used for reimbursement, the prostate brachytherapy data is used to support program budgeting and cancer system planning.

The prostate brachytherapy database maintains a record of both patient eligibility/enrolment data and treatment data. To be eligible for reimbursement through the program, the ICP must submit eligibility/enrolment data as well as treatment data in compliance with monthly billing deadlines through a web-based application.

The requirements for eligibility/enrolment data and treatment data are outlined below:

1. The ICP must submit this data to OH and OH must process it before payment is provided to the ICP.
2. Each patient for whom the ICP is seeking reimbursement must be enrolled in the program by providing eligibility/enrolment data that includes patient-specific demographic information and answers to a series of medical questions.
3. The required treatment data consists of:
    a. The quantities of each product (seeds and needles) used or discarded as a result of a qualified patient's treatment.

The amount of reimbursement is then calculated from the total of:

1. The cost of the used and/or discarded products, based on approved reimbursement product cost and the reported quantities.
2. A standard delivery cost.

Eligibility Criteria:

A patient eligibility criterion has been developed based on the joint American Society of Clinical Oncology/Ontario Health Guideline Update and the evidence-based guideline recommendations completed by the Program in Evidence-Based Care at OH.

Low-risk prostate cancer:

- Patients who require or choose active treatment, low–dose rate brachytherapy (LDR) alone, external beam radiation therapy (EBRT) alone, and/or radical prostatectomy (RP)
- Eligible for LDR brachytherapy alone as monotherapy

Low-intermediate risk prostate cancer:

- As defined by Gleason 7, prostate-specific antigen (PSA), <10 ng/mL or Gleason 6, PSA, 10 to 20 ng/mL)
- Eligible for LDR brachytherapy alone as monotherapy

Intermediate-risk prostate cancer:

- Patients choosing EBRT *with or without* androgen-deprivation therapy
- Eligible for LDR brachytherapy boost

High-risk prostate cancer:

- As defined by having any of the following characteristics: Classified as T3a, PSA >20 ng/mL, Gleason between 8 and 10.
- Patients choosing EBRT *with* androgen-deprivation therapy
- Eligible for LDR brachytherapy boost

Approved Clinical Trials:

- Patients enrolled in approved clinical trials are all eligible regardless of Gleason score, stage or serum PSA

Ordering of Seeds and Needles:

- Each ICP is responsible for ordering the required seeds and needles per treated case.
- Each ICP is responsible for the payment of the seeds and needles based on vendor's invoice.

Program Reporting:

Patient eligibility/enrolment data and treatment data that is submitted to OH will be collected and used for:

- Determining and verifying eligibility for reimbursement of brachytherapy requests; and
- Analysis or compiling statistical information with respect to the management of, evaluation or monitoring of, the allocation of resources to or planning for all or part of the health system, including the delivery of services pursuant to section 45 of the *Personal Health Information Protection Act, 2004*

Reimbursement:

- OH will only reimburse ICPs for patients entered into the Brachytherapy Reimbursement web-application and for the items and quantities identified.
- The cost of used and/or discarded products is based on approved reimbursement product cost noted in the web-based application and the reported quantities.
- Any additional costs such as other supplies or differences in pricing between the OH reimbursement rate and vendors' pricing are required to be covered by the individual ICP operating budget through per case funding.
- Patient data for the month must be entered by the 9th of the following month, as reimbursement invoices are generated on the 10th (for previous month's activity).
- With regards to loose seeds and stranded products preloaded in needles, it is expected that the reimbursement price includes the cost of the needles and that the type of needles can be selected by the centres when placing orders.

Patients entered later than the 9th of month even if treated in the previous month will not be reimbursed.