

# Updates to Carelon Medical Benefits Management Radiation Oncology Clinical Appropriateness Guidelines

Effective April 9, 2023

Effective for dates of service on and after April 9, 2023, the following updates will apply to the Carelon Medical Benefits Management Radiation Oncology Clinical Appropriateness Guidelines. As part of the Carelon Medical Benefits Management guideline annual review process, these updates are focused on advancing efforts to drive clinically appropriate, safe, and affordable health care services.

## **Radiation Therapy – Updates by section**

- Gastrointestinal (GI) Cancers –Intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT)
- Removed plan comparison requirement for cholangiocarcinoma, esophageal, gastric, hepatocellular, and pancreatic cancer, because IMRT has become standard of care for curative treatment of these GI malignancies

## **Oligometastatic Extracranial Disease – SBRT: stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT)**

- Added indication for adrenal metastases as ABR-COMET rial listed this as one of the most common sites treated in that trial

## **Prostate Cancer – Brachytherapy:**

- Adding indication for high-dose rate monotherapy in low- and intermediate-risk disease

## **Image Guidance radiation therapy (IGRT)**

- Added surface-based guidance technique (no change in intent or coding)
- Added statement that IGRT is not medically necessary to guide superficial radiotherapy for non-melanoma skin cancer (supported by American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) clinical practice guideline)

As a reminder, ordering and servicing providers may submit prior authorization requests to Carelon Medical Benefits Management in one of several ways:

- Access Carelon’s **ProviderPortal** directly at [www.providerportal.com](http://www.providerportal.com)  
**Online access is available 24/7 to process orders in real-time and is the fastest and most convenient way to request authorization.**
- Access Carelon Medical Benefits Management via the Availity Web Portal at [www.availity.com](http://www.availity.com).

For questions related to guidelines, please contact Carelon Medical Benefits Management via email at [MedicalBenefitsManagement.guidelines@carelon.com](mailto:MedicalBenefitsManagement.guidelines@carelon.com). Additionally, you may access and download a copy of the current and upcoming guidelines at [guidelines.carelonmedicalbenefitsmanagement.com/](http://guidelines.carelonmedicalbenefitsmanagement.com/).