



Irish Life  
health

# Radiotherapist Services Ground Rules

2019

## 1. IN-PATIENT

Consultant physician benefit will be paid on the basis of the in-patient attendance benefit rates.

## 2. DAY CARE

Consultant physician benefit for day care radiotherapy will be payable at the same benefit rates as apply to in-patient attendance.

If it is medically necessary for the patient to have repeat day care stays for radiotherapy, benefit will be payable to the consultant at the same rate as if the patient had been an in-patient. For multiple day care radiotherapy the attending consultant's benefit is calculated at the end of the course of radiotherapy treatment.

Day care radiotherapy is only payable when it is medically necessary for a patient be admitted to a day care facility. It is expected that most ambulatory patients in need of radiotherapy, will be treated on an ambulatory day care basis.

These services include: clinical treatment planning, manual design, simulation, computer assisted simulation, tumour localisation, treatment volume determination, treatment time/dosage determination, choice of treatment modality, determination of number and size of treatment ports, selection of treatment devices and other procedures, consultations and assessments of the patient throughout the course of radiotherapy treatment, psychological support for the patient and family (if necessary).

The benefits also include one follow up outpatient consultation after the course of radiotherapy treatment has been completed.

## 3. CONDITIONS OF PAYMENT

In **exceptional circumstances** when unforeseen delays occur in the submission of a claim in excess of three months from the date of test/ service due to extenuating circumstances, the consultant pathologist may submit to Irish Life Health, a completed claim form which must include side 1 of the form completed and signed by the Irish Life Health member, side 2 of the claim form completed in as far as is possible by an attending consultant, to comprise clinical data including member discharge summary (where available), and all other invoices related to the admission are attached to the claim i.e. hospital and other secondary consultants. This exception may not be availed of for routine bill submission due to routine or on-going completion delays by either the submitting hospital or the admitting consultant. For a specific consultants (or consultant groups) to avail of this facility they must notify the Claims Manager of Irish Life Health in advance of the submission of the claim(s) explaining the reason for the submission to ensure that issues arising from the use of this exemption are maintained at a minimal level.

*Note: Consultant day care\* radiation oncology comprehensive benefit services include (but are not limited to):*

- > clinical treatment planning
- > manual design
- > simulation
- > tumour localisation

- > treatment volume determination
- > treatment time/ dosage determination
- > choice of treatment modality
- > determination of number and size of treatment ports
- > selection of treatment devices and other procedures
- > Departmental clinical responsibility
- > Consultations and assessments of the patient throughout the course of radiotherapy treatment; psychological support for the patient and family (if required).

The benefits listed in the Radiotherapy benefits section of the Schedule are inclusive of all forms of imaging guidance evaluation throughout the radiotherapy sessions, except as otherwise stated.

**The benefit also incorporates one follow-up outpatient consultation** after the course of radiotherapy treatment has been completed.

The benefit levels are site specific. However, if the site listing is not shown below then please report under codes 5643 to 5656. Full details of the site(s) involved should be documented on the claim form.

\*It is expected that most ambulatory patients in need of radiotherapy will be treated on a day care basis. The in-patient attendance rates apply to patients who are admitted to hospital for external beam treatment.

#### 4. INTERSTITIAL BRACHYTHERAPY (MULTIPLE)

Note this includes the generation of complex computerised plan or CT planning with homogeneity criteria assessment/ minimum/ maximum point assessment and brachytherapy treatment, removal of needles when course is completed. All-inclusive benefit for multiple fractions including one follow-up outpatient consultation after the course of treatment has been completed.

#### 5. STEREOTACTIC RADIOTHERAPY - CYBER KNIFE SURGERY

The benefit for cyber knife surgery is all-inclusive and includes, but is not limited to:

- > One or more treatment sessions
- > Evaluation of all digitised data
- > Target outline
- > Radiation treatment planning
- > CT scan evaluation
- > Volumetric analysis

The benefit will only be provided following a multi-disciplinary team meeting and is only claimable when the course of treatment is fully completed. Benefit is payable once per anatomical site unless pre-approval has been sought prior to the procedure/s being undertaken. The relevant procedure code should be used to indicate the site at which the treatment occurs.

## 6. NUMBER OF FRACTIONS

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Irish Life Health requires that all radiotherapists provide the minimum number of treatment beams/ fractions in line with international best practice. International best practice is moving to a system of reduced number of fractions with higher beam intensity and the effect of such practice will be monitored and changed over the period of this agreement by Irish Life Health. Please note, in line with this practice, Irish Life Health now requires pre-approval by means of a detailed submission by the patient's consultant to Irish Life Health where more than 20 fractions are required. In the interest of patient safety and improved outcomes, Irish Life Health welcomes both the input and the work of radiotherapists in this area in reducing the number of fractions involved and hence patient visits.