ASTRO Guidance on Appropriate Coding for Adaptive Radiotherapy

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The term Adaptive Radiotherapy (ART) has been applied to describe adjustments to the radiation treatment delivery plan that are made in response to anatomic changes observed during a course of treatment, typically tumor shrinkage and/or changes in the location of nearby normal structures. ART may include steps in the process of care like cumulative comparative dose analysis with projection to the final delivered dose. This dosimetric information is used by the radiation oncologist to determine if a patient requires active re-planning during a course of treatment, with consideration of expected daily positional variances. ASTRO has received questions regarding appropriate coding for the work associated with ART.

The work associated with ART does not rise to the level of 77301 IMRT Treatment Planning unless a full replanning is completed, with acquisition of new CT simulation imaging, contouring, plan optimization and patient-specific plan verification with phantom-based dose measurements. ART can be accounted for through the application of CPT codes 77331 Dosimetry, Special and 77307 Teletherapy Isodose Plan, Complex. As part of ART, when a cumulative comparative dose analysis is performed, it is appropriate to bill CPT code 77331. Based on the evaluation of that dosimetric analysis, if the radiation oncologist determines that a re-plan is appropriate and performed (and a full IMRT plan as described above is not done), then CPT code 77307 may be billed in addition to CPT code 77331.