

NOTICE TO PAYERS

Computed tomography guidance for placement of radiation therapy fields (CPT 77014)

Image guided radiation therapy (IGRT) is a form of image verification used in conjunction with radiation therapy that utilizes imaging localization and/or tracking technology to guide an action(s) that modifies the treatment in reference to the intended target. Computed tomography (CT) based image guidance is one such technology. CT guidance can accurately define positioning adjustments for target localization for daily radiotherapy. Three-dimensional CT images are acquired on the treatment system for image guided patient localization prior to the delivery of each radiotherapy fraction. A medical physicist, or trained radiation therapist, under the supervision of the radiation oncologist, must perform the scan. A radiation oncologist, or a medical physicist or trained therapist, under the supervision of the radiation oncologist, then reviews the images and makes manual or automatic positioning adjustments as necessary. Finally, the radiation oncologist must review any necessary patient adjustments and review all CT images prior to the next treatment.

CPT Code	DESCRIPTOR	CRITERIA FOR USE
77014	Computed tomography guidance for placement of radiation therapy fields	Used with CT-based systems (i.e., integrated cone beam CT, CT/linear accelerator on rails, tomotherapy)

Though CPT 77014 is listed under Radiologic Guidance procedures in the *Current Procedural Technology* (CPT) codebook, this service is always performed in the delivery of IGRT as a Radiation Oncology procedure and must be performed by the radiation oncologist, medical physicist or trained radiation therapist under the supervision of the radiation oncologist.

Therefore, CPT 77014 should be adjudicated and reimbursed as a radiation oncology benefit and not as a diagnostic radiology service. Health plan beneficiaries undergoing daily radiation therapy that includes CT-based image guidance should expect a single copay for both image guidance and treatment delivery rather than separate copays as would occur if image guidance and treatment delivery were processed under separate benefit categories.

Please contact Jessica Adams, Health Policy Analyst, at Jessica.Adams@astro.org, with any questions or related inquiries.