

New Stereotactic Radiosurgery CPT Codes for 2006

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Purpose: To identify the new planning codes for stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS) and stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT) beginning January 1, 2006.

Methods & Materials: On Jan. 1, 2006, CMS promulgated new procedure codes for SRS and SBRT planning. Previously, G0338 was to be used to cover this work in the hospital setting for Medicare patients. After this date, the CPT radiation therapy planning codes available in the 77XXX series are to be used to cover the work of SRS and SBRT planning.

Results: The CPT code for 3D planning, CPT 77295 will now be used to cover the work previously covered under the temporary G0338 code in the hospital setting. All of the applicable CPT codes that cover additional work for a course of radiation therapy (77300, 77336, 77370, 77470, etc) will still be available to cover work associated with the treatment course. The new stereoscopic guidance code, 77421, is however bundled into the G codes used for delivery, at present. Suggested codes will be presented.

Conclusions: SRS and SBRT users will need to use CPT codes to cover the work of planning for these procedures after Jan 1, 2006. Other carriers will likely follow CMS' recommendation, but they should be queried for their policy on this coverage, lest denial of payments ensue.

Conflict of Interest: None