New Radiation Oncology Codes for 2016

For 2016, there are 5 new Category I CPT procedure codes for Remote Afterloading High Dose Rate Brachytherapy (77767-77768, 77770-77772). All of the new codes include a basic dosimetry calculation (CPT 77300), when performed. Two of the new codes are specific to skin surface treatment based on the diameter of the lesion.

In addition, there are two new Category III procedure codes for High Dose Rate Electronic Brachytherapy (0394T & 0395T). One is specific for skin surface application; the other is used for interstitial or intracavitary treatment. These codes include a basic dosimetry calculation (CPT 77300), when performed. In addition, the 2016 CPT coding manual lists multiple radiation oncology codes that may not be billed in conjunction with these Category III codes.

Several radiation oncology codes have been revised for 2016, including CPT 77778 that describes Complex Interstitial Radiation Source Application.

This code includes supervision, handling and loading of a radiation source (CPT 77790), when performed. Other code revisions include therapeutic radiology port images (CPT 77417) and surface application of low dose rate radionuclide source (CPT 77789).

The Simple and Intermediate Interstitial Radiation Source Application codes 77776 and 77777 have been deleted. To report these services in 2016 you must use the unlisted procedure code specific to clinical brachytherapy (CPT 77799).

The 2016 coding updates include new guidance for radiation treatment, radiation delivery and clinical brachytherapy coding.

You may review all new, revised and deleted codes on the AAPM website at: www.aapm.org/government_affairs/CMS/2016Coding.asp

All codes are effective January 1, 2016.