

<b>Department of Origin:</b> Integrated Healthcare Services	<b>Effective Date:</b> 09/28/23
<b>Approved by:</b> Medical Policy Quality Management Subcommittee	<b>Date Approved:</b> 09/22/23
<b>Clinical Policy Document:</b> Radiation Therapy, Proton Beam	<b>Replaces Effective Clinical Policy Dated:</b> 02/17/23
<b>Reference #:</b> MC/L020	<b>Page:</b> 1 of 2

**PURPOSE:**

The intent of this clinical policy is to ensure services are medically necessary.

Please refer to the enrollee's benefit document for specific information. To the extent there is any inconsistency between this policy and the terms of the enrollee's benefit plan or certificate of coverage, the terms of the member's benefit plan document will govern.

**POLICY:**

Benefits must be available for health care services. Health care services must be ordered by a provider. Health care services must be medically necessary, applicable conservative treatments must have been tried, and the most cost-effective alternative must be requested for coverage consideration.

**GUIDELINES:**

Requests for proton beam therapy must satisfy the following: I or II

- I. American Society for Radiation Oncology Model (ASTRO) Policies. Proton Beam Therapy (PBT) <https://www.astro.org/ASTRO/media/ASTRO/Daily%20Practice/PDFs/ASTROPBTModelPolicy.pdf>; or
- II. National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Clinical Practice Guidelines.

**EXCLUSIONS (not limited to):**

Refer to member's Certificate of Coverage or Summary Plan Description

Includes, but is not limited to, health care services designated by the CMS Medicare program as Coverage with Evidence Development (CED) are considered investigative (see Investigative Services [MP/I001])

Proton beam therapy is investigative for treatment of primary prostate cancer (see Investigative List)

**BACKGROUND:**

Proton therapy, also called proton beam therapy, is a type of radiation therapy. It uses protons rather than photons (x-rays) to treat cancer.

A proton is a positively charged particle. At high energy, protons can destroy cancer cells. Doctors may use proton therapy alone. They may also combine it with x-ray radiation therapy, surgery, chemotherapy, and/or immunotherapy.

Like x-ray radiation, proton therapy is a type of external-beam radiation therapy. It painlessly delivers radiation through the skin from a machine outside the body.

In proton beam therapy, a machine called a synchrotron or cyclotron speeds up protons. The high speed of the protons creates high energy. This energy makes the protons travel to the desired depth in the body. The protons then give the targeted radiation dose in the tumor.

With proton therapy, there is less radiation dose outside of the tumor. In regular radiation therapy, x-rays continue to give radiation doses as they leave the person's body. This means that radiation damages nearby healthy tissues, possibly causing side effects.

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Prior Authorization: Yes, per network provider agreement

**CODING:**

CPT® or HCPCS

77520 Proton treatment delivery; simple, without compensation

77522 Proton treatment delivery; simple, with compensation

77523 Proton treatment delivery; intermediate

77525 Proton treatment delivery; complex

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**REFERENCES:**

1. Integrated Healthcare Services Process Manual: UR015 Use of Medical Policy and Criteria
2. Clinical Policy: Coverage Determination Guidelines MP/C009
3. Clinical Policy: Investigative Services MP/1001
4. ASTRO Model Policies. Proton Beam Therapy (PBT). 2022. Retrieved from <https://www.astro.org/Daily-Practice/Reimbursement/Model-Policies#:~:text=ASTRO%20model%20policies%20were%20developed,review%20and%20revision%20without%20notice>. Accessed 06-05-23.

**DOCUMENT HISTORY:**

<b>Created Date:</b> 11/07/19
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<b>Revised Date:</b> 03/11/22, 02/14/23

## Nondiscrimination & Language Access Policy

Aspirus Health Plan, Inc. complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity. We do not exclude people or treat them differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

We will:

Provide free aids and services to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us, such as:

- Qualified sign language interpreters
- Written information in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, other formats)

Provide free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as:

- Qualified interpreters
- Information written in other languages

If you need these services, contact us at the phone number shown on the inside cover of this contract, your id card, or aspirushealthplan.com.

If you believe that we have failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity, you can file a grievance with:

Nondiscrimination Grievance Coordinator  
Aspirus Health Plan, Inc.  
PO Box 1062  
Minneapolis, MN 55440  
Phone: 1.866.631.5404 (TTY: 711)  
Fax: 763.847.4010  
Email: customerservice@aspirushealthplan.com

You can file a grievance in person or by mail, fax, or email. If you need help filing a grievance, the Nondiscrimination Grievance Coordinator is available to help you.

You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at <https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf>, or by mail or phone at:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Room 509F, HHH Building  
Washington, D.C. 20201  
1-800-368-1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD)

Complaint forms are available at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html>.

## Language Assistance Services

**Albanian:** KUJDES: Nëse flitni shqip, për ju ka në dispozicion shërbime të asistencës gjuhësore, pa pagesë. Telefononi në 1.866.631.5404 (TTY: 711).

**Arabic:** تنبيه: إذا كنت تتحدث اللغة العربية، فإن خدمات المساعدة اللغوية متاحة لك مجاناً. اتصل بن اعلى رقم الهاتف 1.866.631.5404 (رقم هاتف الصم والبك : 711)

**French:** ATTENTION : Si vous parlez français, des services d'aide linguistique vous sont proposés gratuitement. Appelezle 1.866.631.5404 (ATS : 711).

**German:** ACHTUNG: Wenn Sie Deutsch sprechen, stehen Ihnen kostenlos sprachliche Hilfsdienstleistungen zur Verfügung. Rufnummer: 1.866.631.5404 (TTY: 711).

**Hindi:** \_यान द\_ : य\_द आप िहंदी बोलते ह\_ तो आपके िलए मु\_त म\_ भाषा सहायता सेवाएं उपल\_ध ह\_। 1.866.631.5404 (TTY: 711) पर कॉल कर\_।

**Hmong:** LUS CEEV: Yog tias koj hais lus Hmoob, cov kev pab txog lus, muaj kev pab dawb rau koj. Hu rau 1.866.631.5404 (TTY: 711).

**Korean:** 주의: 한국어를 사용하시는 경우, 언어 지원 서비스를 무료로 이용하실 수 있습니다. 1.866.631.5404 (TTY: 711)번으로 전화해 주십시오.

**Polish:** UWAGA: Jeżeli mówisz po polsku, możesz skorzystać z bezpłatnej pomocy językowej. Zadzwoń pod numer 1.866.631.5404 (TTY: 711).

**Russian:** ВНИМАНИЕ: Если вы говорите на русском языке, то вам доступны бесплатные услуги перевода. Звоните 1.866.631.5404 (телетайп: 711).

**Spanish:** ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1.866.631.5404 (TTY: 711).

**Tagalog:** PAUNAWA: Kung nagsasalita ka ng Tagalog, maaari kang gumamit ng mga serbisyo ng tulong sa wika nangwalang bayad. Tumawag sa 1.866.631.5404 (TTY: 711)

**Traditional Chinese:** 注意: 如果您使用繁體中文, 您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 1.866.631.5404 (TTY:711)。

**Vietnamese:** CHÚ Ý: Nếu bạn nói Tiếng Việt, có các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí dành cho bạn. Gọi số 1.866.631.5404 (TTY: 711).

**Pennsylvania Dutch:** Wann du Deitsch (Pennsylvania German / Dutch) schwetzsch, kannscht du mitaus Koschte ebbergricke, ass dihr helft mit die englisch Schprooch. Ruf selli Nummer uff: Call 1.866.631.5404 (TTY: 711).

**Lao:** ໄປ່ດຊາຍ: ຖ້າວ່າ ທ່ານເວົ້າພາສາ ລາວ, ການບໍລິການຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອດ້ານພາສາ, ໄດຍບໍ່ເສັຽຄ່າ, ແມ່ນມີພ້ອມໃຫ້ທ່ານ. ໂທ 1.866.631.5404 (TTY:711).