



Payer Coverage Guidelines 2020

FDG PET/CT Scans

Cancer Type	Covered for Diagnosis (1)	Covered for Initial Staging (2)	Covered for Re-staging (3)	Surveillance w/no signs or symptoms (4)
Brain	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Breast (female & male)	No	Yes	Yes	No
Head & Neck (inc. thyroid)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Carcinoid / neuroendocrine	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Cervical	No	Yes	Yes	No
Colorectal	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Lung – small & non-small cell	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Lymphoma	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Melanoma	No	Yes	Yes	No
Myeloma	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Ovarian	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Other solid tumors	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Pancreas	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Prostate	No	No	Yes	No
Non-FDG PET/CT Scans				
PET/CT w/Axumin for recurrent prostate cancer	No	No	Yes**	No
PET/CT w/Dotatate for carcinoid/neuroendocrine	No	Yes	Yes	No
PET/CT Brain Amyloid	No	No	No	No
PET/CT Bone w/F-18	No	No	No	No

- Diagnosis** – some suspected cancers are covered based on abnormal findings on advance diagnostic imaging or failed biopsy
- Initial Staging** – after biopsy or surgery and prior to starting specific treatment
- Re-staging treatment response** – performed during active treatment to assess response/**suspected recurrence** – when there is suspicion for progression or recurrence of known cancer
- Surveillance** – **non-covered** for patients who are asymptomatic or have chronic stable symptoms

** Axumin PET/CT scans are covered for suspected **recurrence** of prostate cancer, with rising PSA, post treatment (treatment includes radiation therapy and surgery performed with curative intent)

*Note - If a PET/CT scan is deemed clinically indicated by the referring physician, but is **non-covered**, your patient can pay for the scan outside of their insurance coverage at our discounted cash rates.*



Payer Specific Guidelines 2020

Payer	Utilization Guidelines	Other
Aetna	eviCore	Auth Required
Anthem Blue Cross*	AIM	Auth Required
Blue Shield*	NIA	Auth Required
Cigna	eviCore	Auth Required
Medi-Cal	Medi-Cal	Auth Required Follows Medicare Guidelines
Medi-Cal GMC	By Medical Group or Payer	Auth Required Plan designates auth organization
Medicare	Medicare	AUC Coming 2021!
Medicare Advantage	By Medical Group or Payer	Auth Required Plan designates auth organization
United Healthcare	eviCore	Auth Required
TriWest	Health Net Fed Services	Auth Required

*The patient's "out of state plan" guidelines may prevail

https://www.EVICORE.com/-/media/Files/eviCore/Clinical-Guidelines/solution/Cardiology-and-radiology/2020/eviCore_Oncology_Eff021420_Pub101519.pdf

https://AIMspecialtyhealth.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/AIM-Guidelines_Oncologic-Imaging_Nov_rev.pdf

<https://www.coordinatedcarehealth.com/newsroom/pet-scan-criteria-NIA-magellan-december-13-19.html>

- 1. Diagnosis** – some suspected cancers are covered based on abnormal findings on advance diagnostic imaging or failed biopsy
- 2. Initial Staging** – after biopsy or surgery and prior to starting specific treatment
- 3. Re-staging treatment response** – performed during active treatment to assess response/**suspected recurrence** – when there is suspicion for progression or recurrence of known cancer
- 4. Surveillance** – **non-covered** for patients who are asymptomatic or have chronic stable symptoms

-
- NCPIC can obtain the appropriate authorization for most of the payers. You will be notified immediately if the authorization process needs to be shifted to the referring physician office.
 - Many of the private payers require other advanced diagnostic imaging (CT or MRI) to be equivocal before they will cover PET/CT for re-staging suspected recurrence.
 - All payers, including Medicare, do not cover PET/CT for routine surveillance. A patient needs to present with new signs or symptoms associated with a suspected recurrence.
 - *If a PET/CT scan is deemed clinically indicated by the referring physician, but is **non-covered**, your patient can pay for the scan outside of their insurance coverage at our discounted cash rates.*

For authorization questions, please reach out to Kelli at 916.378.5550.
For any other billing questions, please reach out to Sue at 214.274.6431