

# RMHP Cryosurgical Ablation of Solid Tumors

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## Description

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**Cryoablation** is a process that uses extreme cold to destroy or damage tissue. Cryoablation is used in a variety of clinical applications using hollow needles (cryoprobes) through which cooled, thermally conductive, fluids are circulated. Cryoprobes are inserted into or placed adjacent to tissue which is determined to be diseased in such a way that ablation will provide correction yielding benefit to the patient. When the probes are in place, the cryogenic freezing unit removes heat ("cools") from the tip of the probe and by extension from the surrounding tissues.

Ablation occurs in tissue that has been frozen by at least three mechanisms:

1. formation of ice crystals within cells thereby disrupting membranes, and interrupting cellular metabolism among other processes;
2. coagulation of blood thereby interrupting blood flow to the tissue in turn causing ischemia and cell death; and
3. induction of apoptosis, the so-called programmed cell death cascade.

## Clinical Indications for Procedure

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- RMHP does NOT require preauthorization for cryosurgical ablation of tumors of the liver (47371, 47381), kidney (50250, 50542, 50593), bone (20983), or prostate (55873). If this applies, reviewer will notify requesting provider by fax.
- **All health plans [RMHP Individual and Family (IFP) Commercial, PRIME (Medicaid), CHP Plus, Medicare (CareAdvantage and Dual Special Needs Plan - DSNP)]** Cryosurgical ablation of a solid tumors is required for one of the reasons listed. Select the indication for the surgery. **1 or more** of the following

- The Member has soft tissue sarcoma of the extremities of the trunk and is symptomatic with disseminated metastases
- The Member has malignant endobronchial obstruction that is inoperable
- The procedure is not listed above. Cryosurgical ablation is considered investigational when used for treatment of benign or malignant breast tumors, pancreatic cancer, lung cancer, or any reason not listed above . This request will be pended for processing **1 or more** of the following
  - The Member has fibroadenoma of the breast
  - The Member has a malignant tumor of the breast
  - The Member has a tumor of the pancreas
  - The Member has a lung tumor
  - The Member has a tumor not listed above. Enter a detailed description with the request.

## References

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## Policy History

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2024 Only codes that require PA are unlisted codes. This policy is not needed. Recommend archiving.

History Summary: 11/8/2016 Guideline for Cryosurgical Ablation of Prostate Cancer archived. NTAG and MAC approved cryosurgical ablation of solid tumors in accordance with this guideline. 3/1/17 Clarified section regarding no preauth, confirmed CPT codes. 12/21/2017 Approved by NTAG Committee - annual review - no changes made - NCD reviewed. Annual reviews 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 with approval by committees - no changes.

2023 annual review and approval by committee hierarchy.

## Reviewer Guidance

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## Codes

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**CPT® : 0340T, 19105, 19499, 20983, 20999, 31641, 47371, 47381, 48999, 50250, 50542, 50593, 55873**

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