

Program Memorandum Intermediaries/Carriers

Department of Health &
Human Services (DHHS)
Centers for Medicare &
Medicaid Services (CMS)

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CHANGE REQUEST 1886

SUBJECT: The Use of Gamma Cameras and Full Ring and Partial Ring Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Scanners for PET Scans

Introduction

This Program Memorandum (PM) summarizes the revision to §50-36 of the Coverage Issues Manual (CIM) about types of 2-[F-18] Fluoro-D-Glucose (FDG) PET scanners and provides claims processing information. This decision does not change the covered clinical indications beyond the changes that took effect on July 1, 2001. Please refer to §50-36 of the CIM for further details about coverage. New HCPCS codes are provided to clarify the type of PET scanner used by clinical indication.

General Conditions of Coverage by Allowable Type of FDG PET Scanner

For purposes of this section, "Any FDA approved" means all systems approved or cleared for marketing by the FDA to image radionuclides in the body. "FDA approved" means that the system indicated has been approved or cleared for marketing by the FDA to image radionuclides in the body. "Certain coincidence systems" refers to the systems that have all the following features:

- crystal at least 5/8-inch thick
- techniques to minimize or correct for scatter and/or randoms, and
- digital detectors and iterative reconstruction.

"Certain coincidence systems" must have all three design features. Scans performed with gamma camera PET systems with crystals thinner than 5/8-inch will not be covered by Medicare. In addition, scans performed with systems with crystals greater than or equal to 5/8-inch in thickness, but that do not meet the other listed design characteristics are not covered by Medicare.

Covered Clinical Condition	Allowable Type of FDG PET System		
	Prior to July 1, 2001	July 1, 2001 through December 31, 2001	On or after January 1, 2002
Characterization of single pulmonary nodules	Effective 1/1/1998, any FDA approved	Any FDA approved	FDA approved: Full ring Partial ring Certain coincidence systems
Initial staging of lung cancer (non small cell)	Effective 1/1/1998, any FDA approved	Any FDA approved	FDA approved: Full ring Partial ring Certain coincidence systems
Determining location of colorectal tumors if rising CEA level suggests recurrence	Effective 7/1/1999, any FDA approved	Any FDA approved	FDA approved: Full ring Partial ring Certain coincidence systems

Covered Clinical Condition	Allowable Type of FDG PET System		
	Prior to July 1, 2001	July 1, 2001 through December 31, 2001	On or after January 1, 2002
Staging or restaging of lymphoma only when used as an alternative to a gallium scan	Effective 7/1/1999, any FDA approved	Any FDA approved	FDA approved: Full ring Partial ring Certain coincidence systems
Evaluating recurrence of melanoma prior to surgery as an alternative to a gallium scan	Effective 7/1/1999, any FDA approved.	Any FDA approved	FDA approved: Full ring Partial ring Certain coincidence systems
Diagnosis, staging, and restaging of colorectal cancer	Not covered by Medicare	Full ring	FDA approved: Full ring Partial ring
Diagnosis, staging, and restaging of esophageal cancer	Not covered by Medicare	Full ring	FDA approved: Full ring Partial ring
Diagnosis, staging, and restaging of head and neck cancers (excluding CNS and thyroid)	Not covered by Medicare	Full ring	FDA approved: Full ring Partial ring
Diagnosis, staging, and restaging of lung cancer (non small cell)	Not covered by Medicare	Full ring	FDA approved: Full ring Partial ring
Diagnosis, staging, and restaging of lymphoma	Not covered by Medicare	Full ring	FDA approved: Full ring Partial ring
Diagnosis, staging, and restaging of melanoma (noncovered for evaluating regional nodes)	Not covered by Medicare	Full ring	FDA approved: Full ring Partial ring
Determination of myocardial viability only following an inconclusive SPECT	Not covered by Medicare	Full ring	FDA approved: Full ring Partial ring
Presurgical evaluation of refractory seizures	Not covered by Medicare	Full ring	FDA approved: Full ring Partial ring

HCPCS Codes for PET Scans--General Information

On July 1, 2001, new HCPCS codes G0210 - G0230 were added to allow billing for all currently covered indications for FDG PET. Although the codes do not indicate the type of PET scanner, these codes should be used until January 1, 2002 by providers to bill for services in a manner consistent with the coverage policy. Effective January 1, 2002, these codes will have new descriptors to properly reflect the type of PET scanner used. Also effective January 1, 2002 there will be 4 new G codes for covered conditions that may be billed if a gamma camera is used for the PET scan. The changes to the code descriptors are indicated in boldface. As of January 1, 2002, providers should bill using the revised HCPCS codes G0120 - G0234.

HCPCS Codes for PET Scans Performed on or after July 1, 2001 through December 31, 2001

- G0210** PET Imaging *whole body*; diagnosis; lung cancer, non-small cell
Short Description: PET img wholebody dxlung ca
- G0211** PET Imaging *whole body*; *initial* staging; lung cancer; non-small cell (**replaces G0126**)
Short Description: PET img wholbody init lung
- G0212** PET Imaging *whole body*; restaging; lung cancer; non-small cell
Short Description: PET img wholebod restag lung
- G0213** PET Imaging *whole body*; diagnosis; colorectal cancer
Short Description: PET img wholbody dx colorec
- G0214** PET Imaging *whole body*; *initial* staging; colorectal cancer
Short Description: PET img wholebod init colore
- G0215** PET Imaging *whole body*; restaging; colorectal cancer (**replaces G0163**)
Short Description: PET img wholebod restag colre
- G0216** PET Imaging *whole body*; diagnosis; melanoma
Short Description: PET img wholebod dx melanoma
- G0217** PET Imaging *whole body*; *initial* staging; melanoma
Short Description: PET img wholebod init melano
- G0218** PET Imaging *whole body*; restaging; melanoma (**replaces G0165**)
Short Description: PET img wholebod restag mela
- G0219** ***PET Imaging whole body; melanoma for non-covered indications***
Short Description: PET img wholbod melano nonco
- G0220** PET Imaging *whole body*; diagnosis; lymphoma
Short Description: PET img wholebod dx lymphoma
- G0221** PET Imaging *whole body*; *initial* staging; lymphoma (**replaces G0164**)
Short Description: PET imag wholbod init lympho
- G0222** PET Imaging *whole body*; restaging; lymphoma (**replaces G0164**)
Short Description: PET imag wholbod resta lymph
- G0223** PET Imaging *whole body or regional*; diagnosis; head and neck cancer; excluding thyroid and CNS cancers
Short Description: PET imag wholbod reg dx head

- G0224** PET Imaging *whole body or regional; initial* staging; head and neck cancer; excluding thyroid and CNS cancers
Short Description: PET imag wholbod reg ini hea
- G0225** PET Imaging *whole body or regional*; restaging; head and neck cancer, excluding thyroid and CNS cancers
Short Description: PET whol restag headneckonly
- G0226** PET Imaging *whole body*; diagnosis; esophageal cancer
Short Description: PET img wholbody dx esophagl
- G0227** PET Imaging *whole body; initial* staging; esophageal cancer
Short Description: PET img wholbod ini esophage
- G0228** PET Imaging *whole body*; restaging; esophageal cancer
Short Description: PET img wholbod restg esopha
- G0229** PET Imaging; Metabolic brain imaging for pre-surgical evaluation of refractory seizures
Short Description: PET img metaboloc brain pres
- G0230** PET Imaging; Metabolic assessment for myocardial viability following inconclusive SPECT study
Short Description: PET myocard viability post s
- NOTE:** G0125 has a definition change: "PET imaging regional or whole body; single pulmonary nodule"
(Short Description: PET image pulmonary nodule)

HCPCS Codes for PET Scans Performed with Full or Partial Ring PET Scanners for Services Furnished on or after January 1, 2002

*WhBD = *whole body*

- G0210** PET Imaging *whole body; full- and partial-ring PET scanners only*, diagnosis; lung cancer, non-small cell
Short Description: PET img WhBD ring dxlung ca
- G0211** PET Imaging *whole body; full- and partial-ring PET scanners only, initial* staging; lung cancer; non-small cell (**replaces G0126**)
Short Description: PET img WhBD ring init lung
- G0212** PET Imaging *whole body; full- and partial-ring PET scanners only*, restaging; lung cancer; non-small cell
Short Description: PET img WhBD ring restag lun
- G0213** PET Imaging *whole body; full- and partial-ring PET scanners only*, diagnosis; colorectal cancer
Short Description: PET img WhBD ring dx colorec

- G0214** PET Imaging *whole body; full- and partial-ring PET scanners only*, initial staging; colorectal cancer
Short Description: PET img WhBD ring init colore
- G0215** PET Imaging *whole body; full- and partial-ring PET scanners only*, restaging; colorectal cancer (**replaces G0163**)
Short Description: PET img whbd restag col
- G0216** PET Imaging *whole body; full- and partial-ring PET scanners only*, diagnosis; melanoma
Short Description: PET img WhBD ring dx melanom
- G0217** PET Imaging *whole body; full- and partial-ring PET scanners only*, initial staging; melanoma
Short Description: PET img WhBD ring init melan
- G0218** PET Imaging *whole body; full- and partial-ring PET scanners only*, restaging; melanoma (**replaces G0165**)
Short Description: PET img WhBD ring restag mel
- G0219** PET Imaging whole body; (*full- and partial-ring PET scanners only*) for non-covered indications
Short Description: PET img WhBD ring noncov ind
- G0220** PET Imaging *whole body; full- and partial-ring PET scanners only*, diagnosis; lymphoma
Short Description: PET img WhBD ring dx lymphom
- G0221** PET Imaging *whole body; full- and partial-ring PET scanners only*, initial staging; lymphoma (**replaces G0164**)
Short Description: PET img WhBD ring init lymph
- G0222** PET Imaging *whole body; full- and partial-ring PET scanners only*, restaging; lymphoma (**replaces G0164**)
Short Description: PET img WhBD ring resta lym
- G0223** PET Imaging *whole body or regional; full- and partial-ring PET scanners only*, diagnosis; head and neck cancer; excluding thyroid and CNS cancers
Short Description: PET imag WhBD reg ring dx head
- G0224** PET Imaging *whole body or regional; full- and partial-ring PET scanners only*, initial staging; head and neck cancer; excluding thyroid and CNS cancers
Short Description: PET img WhBD reg ring ini hea
- G0225** PET Imaging *whole body or regional; full- and partial-ring PET scanners only*, restaging; head and neck cancer, excluding thyroid and CNS cancers
Short Description: PET img WhBD ring restag hea

- G0226** PET Imaging *whole body; full- and partial-ring PET scanners only*, diagnosis; esophageal cancer
Short Description: PET img WhBD dx esophag
- G0227** PET Imaging *whole body; full- and partial-ring PET scanners only*, initial staging; esophageal cancer
Short Description: PET img whbd ini esopha
- G0228** PET Imaging *whole body; full- and partial-ring PET scanners only*, restaging; esophageal cancer
Short Description: PET img WhBD ring restg esop
- G0229** PET Imaging; Metabolic brain imaging for pre-surgical evaluation of refractory seizures; *full- and partial-ring PET scanners only*
Short Description: PET img metabolic brain ring
- G0230** PET Imaging; Metabolic assessment for myocardial viability following inconclusive SPECT study; *full- and partial-ring PET scanners only*
Short Description: PET myocard viability ring
- NOTE:** For purposes of this benefit, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) uses the terms "initial staging" and "staging" interchangeably.

HCPCS Codes for PET Scans Performed with Gamma Cameras to be Used Only for Services Furnished on or after January 1, 2002

- G0231** PET, whole body, for recurrence of colorectal or colorectal metastatic cancer; *gamma cameras only*
Short Description: PET WhBD colorec; gamma cam
- G0232** PET, whole body, for staging and characterization of lymphoma; *gamma cameras only*
Short Description: PET WhBD lymphoma; gamma cam
- G0233** PET, whole body, for recurrence of melanoma or melanoma metastatic cancer, *gamma cameras only*
Short Description: PET WhBD melanoma; gamma cam
- G0234** PET, regional or whole body, for solitary pulmonary nodule following CT, or for initial staging of non-small cell lung cancer; *gamma cameras only*
Short Description: PET WhBD pulm nod; gamma cam

Carrier and Fiscal Intermediary Claims Processing Requirements

No system edits are required for this instruction. The changes made by the program memorandum will be made via the annual Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Database (MPFSDB) and Outpatient Code Editor (OCE) update process.

For Carriers Only

Payment pricing information for codes G0231 - G0234 will be listed in the January 2002 release of the Medicare Fee Schedule Database.

Provider Bulletin

Information about the policy and the change in coding should be included in your next regularly scheduled provider bulletin. Also, please post this information on your website immediately.

These instructions should be implemented within your current operating budget.

The effective date for this PM is January 1, 2002.

The implementation date for the new HCPCS codes described in this PM is January 1, 2002.

This PM may be discarded after January 1, 2003.

If you have any questions, contact your local CMS regional office.