

INFOBulletin

Keeping health care providers informed of payment, policy or program changes

To: All Physicians in Ontario

Published By: Health Services Branch

Date Issued: June 18, 2010

Bulletin #: 4514

Re: Approval for Gamma Knife Radiosurgery

The purpose of this bulletin is to confirm the circumstances for prior approval of OHIP funding for Gamma Knife Radiosurgery at the Health Sciences Centre (HSC) in Winnipeg, Manitoba and the University Health Network (UHN) in Toronto, Ontario.

Process for Application

- Ontario physicians who wish to refer their patients to the HSC in Winnipeg, Manitoba for Gamma Knife treatment are required by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (the ministry) to apply for funding before the patient goes to Winnipeg using the existing out-of-country prior approval form entitled "Prior Approval Application for Full Payment of Insured Out-of-Country Health Services". (This form is being used until the Out of Province (OOP) Prior Approval Application Form is finalized).
- Once the application is received by the ministry, ministry staff will review the application to ensure the request is in accordance with the standards established by Ontario's University Health Network, policy 42.70.001 (attached), for conditions considered appropriate for Gamma Knife treatment for insured Ontario residents.
- If the request meets the requirements outlined in policy 42.70.001, a funding letter will be sent from the ministry to the HSC in Winnipeg with billing instructions for each approved patient. A copy of the letter will be sent to the referring Ontario physician and copied to the patient.
- Approval for funding must be received prior to the patient receiving care in Manitoba. If no written prior approval for funding is received, OHIP will not fund the Gamma Knife Radiosurgery.
- Patients who are referred to the HSC in Winnipeg without prior approval for funding from the ministry will be re-directed by Winnipeg back to their Ontario Physicians to apply for prior approval for funding.

Physicians submitting a completed “Prior Approval Application for Full Payment of Insured Out-of-Country Health Services” should fax the completed application to:

Sr. Program Consultant
Provider Payment Programs
Health Services Branch
370 Select Drive, P.O. Box 168
Kingston ON K7M 8T4
Fax: 1-866-221-3356 or 613-536-3181

For additional information or clarification regarding this bulletin please call the Out-of-Country/Province toll free number at 1-888-359-8807.

Patients who require Gamma Knife Radiosurgery who are not eligible residents of Northern Ontario should be referred to the University Health Network (UHN) Toronto Western Hospital. Prior approval from the ministry is not needed for any patient being referred to UHN.

To request Gamma Knife Radiosurgery at UHN, please contact:

Joey and Toby Tennenbaum
Gamma Knife Centre
399 Bathurst Street
Toronto ON M5T 2S8
Tel. (416) 603-5445
Fax (416) 603-5155

42.70.001 Indications for Gamma Knife Radiosurgery Policy

Patients may be referred to the Gamma Knife Center for consideration of radiosurgery for the following standard clinical indications:

- Intractable typical **Trigeminal Neuralgia** refractory to medical management
- Brain or dural **Vascular Malformations** considered poorly suited for complete excision by surgical craniotomy or complete obliteration by endovascular embolization.
- Patients with **Brain Tumours** may be referred for gamma knife radiosurgery when considered technically advantageous according to the size and location of tumours. This will include brain tumours located adjacent to critical structures at risk of radiation injury.

General indications for radiosurgery in patients with brain tumours include selected patients with tumours less than 4cm maximum dimension in which surgical resection is not the preferred treatment and one of the following diagnoses:

- **Single brain metastases** as boost therapy in combinations with whole brain radiotherapy (WBRT) in patients with limited or controlled extracranial disease and KPS $\geq$ 70, or
- **1-3 brain metastases** as salvage therapy at the time of local failure after WBRT in patients with limited or controlled extracranial disease and KPS $\geq$ 70;
- Meningioma
- Acoustic Schwanoma
- Pituitary Adenoma
- Glomus Tumors
- Chordoma
- Chondrosarcoma
- Hemangioblastoma
- Pilocytic astrocytoma

Patients may be referred to the Gamma Knife Center for consideration of radiosurgery under a research protocol for non-standard indications. This may include the following:

- Focal **Epilepsy** refractory to medical management.