

INFOBulletin

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

To: All Physicians in Ontario

Published By: Health Services Branch

Date Issued: September 18, 2012

Bulletin: 4571

Re: Updated Approval Guidelines for Gamma Knife Radiosurgery

The purpose of this bulletin is to update and confirm the circumstances for prior approval for Ontario Health Insurance Plan (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 need to refer their patients to the HSC in Winnipeg 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.
- Patients referred to Winnipeg must be eligible residents of Northern Ontario whose primary place of residence is in the districts of Algoma, Cochrane, Kenora, Manitoulin, Nipissing, Parry Sound, Rainy River, Sudbury, Timiskaming or Thunder Bay. Patients whose primary place of residence is elsewhere in Ontario should be referred to the University Health Network (UHN) at Toronto Western Hospital.

For Patients being Referred to Winnipeg:

- Physicians should use the existing "[Request for Prior Approval for Full Payment of Insured Out-of-Country \(OOC\) Health Services](#)" form. This form is being used until the Out of Province Prior Approval Application Form is finalized.
- When an application is received by the ministry, ministry staff will review the application to ensure that the request is in accordance with the standards established by Ontario's



UHN, policy 42.70.002 (attached). This policy details the conditions considered appropriate for Gamma Knife treatment for insured Ontario residents. Please note that further medical evaluation is strongly recommended in certain clinical instances.

- If the request meets the requirements outlined in policy 42.70.002, a funding letter will be sent from the ministry to the HSC to confirm funding approval. 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 Winnipeg.

Submitting a Completed Application:

Physicians submitting a completed "[Request for Prior Approval for Full Payment of Insured Out-of-Country \(OOC\) Health Services](#)" form should send the completed application by mail, courier or fax to:

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Health Services Branch
Provider Payment Program Unit
370 Select Drive, P.O. Box 168
Kingston ON K7M 8T4

Fax: 1-866-221-3356 or (613) 536-3181

Referring a Patient to University Health Network:

Patients who require Gamma Knife Surgery who are not residents of Northern Ontario should be referred to:

Joey and Toby Tanenbaum Family Gamma Knife Centre
University Health Network
399 Bathurst Street
Toronto ON M5T 2S8

Telephone: (416) 603-5445
Fax: (416) 603-5155

Who should I contact for further information regarding this bulletin:

Please contact the Out-of-Country/Province Prior Approval Unit by calling 1-888-359-8807