

Nationally Covered Indications

Cancer Type	Initial Treatment Strategy	Subsequent Treatment Strategy
Brain	X	X
Breast (Female and Male)	X ¹	X
Cervical	X ²	X
Colorectal	X	X
Esophageal	X	X
Head & Neck (Non-Thyroid or CNS)	X	X
Lymphoma	X	X
Melanoma	X ³	X
Myeloma	X	X
Non-Small Cell Lung	X	X
Ovarian	X	X
Pancreatic	X	X
Prostate		X
Small Cell Lung	X	X
Soft Tissue Sarcoma	X	X
Testicular	X	X
Thyroid	X	X
All Other Solid Tumors	X	X
All Other Cancers Not Listed	X	X

¹Breast: Nationally non-covered for initial diagnosis and/or staging of axillary lymph nodes. Nationally covered for initial staging of metastatic disease.

²Cervical: Nationally non-covered for the initial diagnosis of cervical cancer related to initial anti-tumor treatment strategy. All other indications for initial anti-tumor treatment strategy for cervical cancer are nationally covered.

³Melanoma: Nationally non-covered for initial staging of regional lymph nodes. All other indications for initial anti-tumor treatment strategy for melanoma are nationally covered.

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PET/CT
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What is PET/CT?

PET/CT combines the functional information from a Positron Emission Tomography (PET) exam with anatomical information from a Computed Tomography (CT) exam in one single exam.

A PET scan detects changes in cellular function—specifically, how your cells are utilizing nutrients like sugar and oxygen. Since these functional changes take place before physical changes occur, PET can provide information that enables your physician to make an early diagnosis.

The advantage of CT is its ability to take cross sectional images of your body. These are combined with the information from the PET scan to provide more anatomic details of the metabolic changes in your body.

The PET exam pinpoints metabolic activity in cells and the CT exam provides an anatomical reference. When these two scans are fused together, your physician can view metabolic changes in the proper anatomical context of your body.

Call (920) 623-1210 for more information.

Does Insurance Cover PET/CT?

Yes, PET/CT imaging is covered by both Medicare and private insurance companies. Private insurance companies usually follow Medicare guidelines.

What is the Patient Preparation?

- NPO 6 hours prior to exam time.
- For patients with diabetes mellitus, meal times and medication may need to be altered. Please consult one of the radiologists who reads PET/CT studies.
- Radiologist must receive copies of recent radiographic films and reports.
- Have patient wear warm, comfortable clothing.

How do I order a PET/CT Scan?

1. Decide which study to perform

Assess patient history to determine if study should be for initial or subsequent treatment strategy.

2. Contact Prairie Ridge Health

To schedule the patient, please have the following information available:

- Patient history
- Diagnostic exams performed
- Information about biopsies, surgery and therapy.

3. Inform the patient (**IMPORTANT**)

Provide patient with information about the exam (i.e. a copy of the patient brochure which includes date, time, and instructions for exam preparation).

What are the Medicare Guidelines?

For Initial Treatment Strategy

One FDG-PET/CT study is reimbursable for beneficiaries who have solid tumors that are biopsy proven or strongly suspected based on other diagnostic testing when the beneficiary's treating physician determines that the FDG-PET/CT study is needed to determine the location and/or extent of the tumor for the following therapeutic purposes related to the initial treatment strategy:

- To determine whether or not the beneficiary is an appropriate candidate for an invasive diagnostic or therapeutic procedure; or
- To determine the optimal anatomic location for an invasive procedure; or
- To determine the anatomic extent of tumor when the recommended anti-tumor treatment reasonably depends on the extent of the tumor.

For Subsequent Treatment Strategy

Limitations prior to June 11, 2013 are not applicable toward the newly allotted number of scans per patient, per diagnosis.

Three (3) FDG-PET scans are nationally covered when used to guide subsequent management of anti-tumor treatment strategy after completion of initial anti-tumor therapy.

Coverage of more than 3 FDG-PET scans to guide subsequent management of anti-tumor treatment strategy after completion of initial anti-tumor therapy shall be determined by the local Medicare Administrative Contractors.

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