Cryosurgical Ablation for Prostate Cancer

Last Review Date: Sept. 14, 2018  Number: MG.MM.SU.53C3

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Definitions
Cryosurgery (aka cryotherapy or cryoablation) is a minimally invasive therapy performed with ultrasound guidance that destroys prostate tumor tissue through local freezing. The modality involves either complete or focal ablation (subtotal cryoablation) only targeting diseased tissue while leaving normal tissue intact.

Guideline
Cryosurgery for primary and recurrent prostate cancer is considered medically necessary as follows; either:

1. Primary treatment stages T1, T2 or T3 (node negative)
2. Salvage therapy for cancer recurrence when disease is localized and both are met:
   a. Failed trial of radiation therapy
   b. Test results indicate ≥ 1:
      i. Stage T2b or below
      ii. Gleason score < 9
      iii. Prostate-specific antigen (PSA) < 8 ng/mL

Limitations/Exclusions
Salvage therapy is not considered medically necessary when radiation was not utilized as a primary therapy.

Applicable Procedure Codes

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>55873</td>
<td>Cryosurgical ablation of the prostate (includes ultrasonic guidance and monitoring)</td>
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<tr>
<td>C2618</td>
<td>Probe, cryoablation</td>
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Applicable ICD-10 Diagnosis Codes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C61</td>
<td>Malignant neoplasm of prostate</td>
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<tr>
<td>D07.5</td>
<td>Carcinoma in situ of prostate</td>
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References


BlueCross BlueShield Association (BCBS), Technology Evaluation Center. Cryoablation for the primary treatment of clinically localized prostate cancer. TEC Assessment Program. Chicago IL: BCBSA; 2001;16(6).

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