



ORION™

HDR MRI LINE MARKER

Fiducial Markers and HDR Brachytherapy

At the time of high dose rate (HDR) brachytherapy the physician may utilize an Orion™ HDR line marker by placing it within the brachytherapy treatment applicator. The brachytherapy applicator for intracavitary treatment or needles for interstitial treatment is inserted into the patient to administer the prescribed radiation treatment. The Orion™ marker is placed within the brachytherapy applicator to assist in identification of the applicator for the HDR brachytherapy treatment planning and delivery.

The billing for the work related to the Orion™ HDR line marker is incorporated into the placement code for the brachytherapy applicator, there is not separate code billable for the placement of the Orion™. The appropriate applicator placement code will depend on the anatomical area to be treated and/or the type of applicator used for the delivery of the HDR brachytherapy.

Each Orion™ HDR line marker is used repeatedly for the individual patient's brachytherapy treatment but is not implanted in patient. Providers can report code A4649, *Surgical supply; miscellaneous* to account for the marker placed for the HDR brachytherapy procedure. Reimbursement may vary depending upon the payer. Within the hospital setting, Medicare packages A4649 into the brachytherapy procedure. In the office setting, Medicare does not reimburse for A4649. Providers should check with their contracted payers to determine reimbursement.

The billable brachytherapy treatment plan will depend on supporting documentation. Brachytherapy isodose plans (CPT® 77316, 77317, 77318) for HDR are based on the number of channels within the brachytherapy applicator used to deliver the radiation. CPT® 77316 is reported when a single channel applicator is utilized, CPT® 77317 is reported when 2-12 channels in the multi-channel applicator are utilized, and CPT 77318 is reported when more than 12 channels are utilized. Each of these plans requires a target volume delineated by the physician. A 3D plan, CPT® 77295, may be supported if there are delineated volumes and dosimetric analysis of the dose volume histogram (DVH) which includes the target volume and at least one critical structure, which is anatomical.

The HDR brachytherapy treatment delivery code is also based on the number of channels used to deliver the brachytherapy treatment. Documentation of a procedure note for each fraction of treatment by the radiation oncologist is needed to support the work and applicable billing. Outpatient hospitals may report the use of Ir-192 as the brachytherapy source for treatment with a quantity of 1 per treatment session. In the office setting Medicare does not reimburse separately for the brachytherapy source as it is bundled into the treatment delivery codes.

The information on the following page reflects the potential codes available for the placement and treatment of HDR brachytherapy for gynecological and prostate courses of treatment.

CPT®/HCPCS	Description	Hospital Outpatient Department (HOPPS)	Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC)	Physician Pro Only Hospital Outpatient Department/ ASC	Physician/ Office Freestanding Facility
HDR Brachytherapy Applicator Placement GYN and Prostate					
55875	Transperineal placement of needles or catheters into prostate for interstitial radioelement application, with or without cystoscopy	\$5,083.62	\$2,521.60	Not Billed in this Setting	\$763.05
57155 ¹	Insertion of uterine tandem and/or vaginal ovoids for clinical brachytherapy	\$4,936.45	\$2,225.58	\$279.80	\$393.01
55920 ¹	Placement of needles or catheters into pelvic organs and/or genitalia (except prostate) for subsequent interstitial radioelement application	\$4,936.45	\$2,225.58	Not Billed in this Setting	\$451.23
57156	Insertion of a vaginal radiation afterloading apparatus for clinical brachytherapy	\$304.19	\$163.08	\$148.47	\$224.81
Orion HDR Line Marker					
A4649 ²	Surgical supply; miscellaneous	Packaged	N/A	Not Billed in this Setting	N/A
Image Guidance					
76965	Ultrasonic guidance for interstitial radioelement application	Packaged	Packaged	\$65.34	\$92.51
76498	Unlisted magnetic resonance procedure (eg, diagnostic, interventional)	Packaged	Packaged	Contractor Priced	N/A
77014	Computed tomography guidance for placement of radiation therapy fields	Packaged	Packaged	\$43.99	N/A
Brachytherapy Treatment Planning					
77316 ³	Brachytherapy isodose plan; simple (calculation[s] made from 1 to 4 sources, or remote afterloading brachytherapy, 1 channel), includes basic dosimetry calculation(s)	\$366.07	\$167.55	\$71.81	\$240.66
77317 ³	Brachytherapy isodose plan; intermediate (calculation[s] made from 5 to 10 sources, or remote afterloading brachytherapy, 2-12 channels), includes basic dosimetry calculation(s)	\$366.07	\$196.49	\$94.13	\$316.67
77318 ³	Brachytherapy isodose plan; complex (calculation[s] made from over 10 sources, or remote afterloading brachytherapy, over 12 channels), includes basic dosimetry calculation(s)	\$366.07	\$196.49	\$149.12	\$450.26
77295 ³	3-dimensional radiotherapy plan, including dose-volume histograms	\$1,368.28	\$249.39	\$220.28	\$471.94
HDR Brachytherapy Treatment Delivery and Source					
77770 ⁴	Remote afterloading high dose rate radionuclide interstitial or intracavitary brachytherapy, includes basic dosimetry, when performed; 1 channel	\$693.81	\$237.42	\$100.27	\$339.31
77771 ⁴	Remote afterloading high dose rate radionuclide interstitial or intracavitary brachytherapy, includes basic dosimetry, when performed; 2-12 channels	\$693.81	\$376.27	\$195.70	\$594.21
77772 ⁴	Remote afterloading high dose rate radionuclide interstitial or intracavitary brachytherapy, includes basic dosimetry, when performed; over 12 channels	\$693.81	\$376.27	\$275.92	\$887.91
C1717	Brachytherapy source, nonstranded, high dose rate iridium-192, per source	\$342.39	\$342.39	Not Billed in this Setting	Not Billed in this Setting

¹When HDR brachytherapy using the tandem and/or ovoids and interstitial ring is performed, both placement codes 57155 and 55920 may be reported together on the claim. Medicare applies a complexity adjustment for this code combination in the hospital setting, but paying as a pair with the payment rate assigned to APC 5416 and the total rate of \$7,394.81, rather than the individual assigned rates.

²Code A4649 represents the Orion™ HDR line marker inserted into the brachytherapy applicator to assist in visualization for treatment planning and treatment delivery.

³Only one treatment plan is billable. The appropriate code will depend on the supporting documentation and medical necessity.

⁴Only one treatment delivery code is billable, select the code based on the number of channels used to deliver the HDR brachytherapy treatment.

-The 2025 National Medicare physician and office payment rates were calculated with conversion factor \$32.3465 effective January 1, 2025

Learn more at:
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