



UNITEDHEALTHCARE® COMMUNITY PLAN: RADIOLOGY IMAGING COVERAGE DETERMINATION GUIDELINE

Pediatric and Special Populations Oncology Imaging Guidelines (For Ohio Only)

V2.0.2026

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Application (for Ohio Only)

This Medical Policy only applies to the state of Ohio. Any requests for services that are stated as unproven or services for which there is a coverage or quantity limit will be evaluated for medical necessity using Ohio Administrative Code 5160-1-01.

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Guideline Development (Preface-1)

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- These evidence-based, proprietary clinical guidelines evaluate a range of advanced imaging and procedures, including NM, US, CT, MRI, PET, Radiation Oncology, Sleep Studies, as well as Cardiac, Musculoskeletal and Spine interventions.
- UnitedHealthcare reserves the right to change and update the guidelines. The guidelines undergo a formal review annually. These clinical guidelines are based on current evidence supported by major national and international association and society guidelines and criteria, peer-reviewed literature, and major treatises as well as input from health plans, and practicing academic and community-based physicians.
- These guidelines are not intended to supersede or replace sound medical judgment, but instead, should facilitate the identification of the most appropriate imaging or other designated procedure given the individual's clinical condition. These guidelines are written to cover medical conditions as experienced by the majority of individuals. However, these guidelines may not be applicable in certain clinical circumstances, and physician judgment can override the guidelines.
- These guidelines provide evidence-based, clinical benefits with a focus on health care quality and patient safety.
- Clinical decisions, including treatment decisions, are the responsibility of the individual and his/her provider. Clinicians are expected to use independent medical judgment, which takes into account the clinical circumstances to determine individual management decisions.

Benefits, Coverage Policies, and Eligibility Issues (Preface-2)

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Investigational and Experimental Studies

- Certain studies, treatments, procedures, or devices may be considered experimental, investigational, or unproven for any condition, illness, disease, injury being treated if one of the following is present:
 - if there is a paucity of supporting evidence;
 - if the evidence has not matured to exhibit improved health parameters;
 - if clinical utility has not been demonstrated in any condition; OR
 - if the study, treatment, procedure, or device lacks a collective opinion of support
- Supporting evidence includes standards that are based on credible scientific evidence published in peer-reviewed medical literature (such as well conducted randomized clinical trials or cohort studies with a sample size of sufficient statistical power) generally recognized by the relevant medical community. Collective opinion of support includes physician specialty society recommendations and the views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas when physician specialty society recommendations are not available.

Clinical and Research Trials

- Similar to investigational and experimental studies, clinical trial imaging requests are reviewed to determine whether they meet these evidence-based clinical guidelines.
- Imaging studies which are inconsistent with established clinical standards, or are requested for data collection and not used in direct clinical management are not medically necessary.

CPT Codes

- The inclusion of any CPT code in the clinical guidelines does not imply that the code is under management or requires prior authorization.

References (Preface-2)

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Clinical Information (Preface-3)

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Clinical Information (Preface-3.1)

References (Preface-3)

Clinical Information (Preface-3.1)

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Clinical Documentation and Age Considerations

- These clinical guidelines use an evidence-based approach to determine the most appropriate procedure for each individual, at the most appropriate time in the diagnostic and treatment cycle. These clinical guidelines are framed by:
 - clinical presentation of the individual, rather than the studies requested
 - adequate clinical information that must be submitted to UnitedHealthcare in order to establish medical necessity for advanced imaging or other designated procedures including, but not limited to, the following:
 - Pertinent clinical evaluation since the onset or change in symptoms including a detailed history, physical examination, appropriate laboratory studies, and appropriate prior imaging studies.
 - Condition-specific guideline sections may describe additional clinical information which is required for a pertinent clinical evaluation.
 - The Spine and Musculoskeletal guidelines require x-ray studies from when the current episode of symptoms has started or changed.
 - Advanced imaging or other designated procedures should not be ordered prior to clinical evaluation of an individual by the physician treating the individual. This may include referral to a consultant specialist who will make further treatment decisions.
 - Other meaningful technological contact (telehealth visit, telephone or video call, electronic mail or messaging) since the onset or change in symptoms by an established individual can serve as a pertinent clinical evaluation.
 - Some conditions may require a face-to-face evaluation as discussed in the applicable condition-specific guideline sections.
 - A recent clinical evaluation may be unnecessary if the individual is undergoing a guideline-supported, scheduled follow-up imaging or other designated procedural evaluation. Exceptions due to routine surveillance indications are addressed in the applicable condition-specific guideline sections.
 - The evidence-based approach to determine the most appropriate procedure for each individual requires submission of medical records pertinent to the requested imaging or other designated procedures.
- Many conditions affecting the pediatric population are different diagnoses than those occurring in the adult population. For those diseases which occur in both pediatric and adult populations, minor differences may exist in management due to individual

age, comorbidities, and differences in disease natural history between children and adults.

- Individuals who are 18 years old or younger should be imaged according to the Pediatric Imaging Guidelines if discussed in the condition-specific guideline sections. Any conditions not specifically discussed in the Pediatric Imaging Guidelines should be imaged according to the General Imaging Guidelines. Individuals who are >18 years old should be imaged according to the General Imaging Guidelines, except where directed otherwise by a specific guideline section.

General Imaging Information

- “Standard” or “conventional” imaging is most often performed in the initial and subsequent evaluations of malignancy. Standard or conventional imaging includes plain film, CT, MRI, or US.
 - Often, further advanced imaging is needed when initial imaging, such as ultrasound, CT, or MRI does not answer the clinical question. Uncertain, indeterminate, inconclusive, or equivocal may describe these situations.
- Appropriate use of contrast is a very important component of evidence-based advanced imaging use.
 - The appropriate levels of contrast for an examination (i.e., without contrast, with contrast, without and with contrast) is determined by the evidence-based guidance reflected in the condition-specific guideline sections.
 - If, during the performance of a non-contrast imaging study, there is the unexpected need to use contrast in order to evaluate a possible abnormality, then that is appropriate.

Ultrasound

- Diagnostic ultrasound uses high-frequency sound waves to evaluate soft tissue structures and vascular structures utilizing grey scale and Doppler techniques.
- Ultrasound allows for dynamic real-time imaging at the bedside.
 - Ultrasound is limited in areas where there is dense bone or other calcification.
 - Ultrasound also has a relatively limited imaging window so may be of limited value in evaluating very large abnormalities.
 - In general, ultrasound is highly operator-dependent, and proper training and experience are required to perform consistent, high-quality evaluations.
- Indications for ultrasound may include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Obstetric and gynecologic imaging
 - Soft tissue and visceral imaging of the chest, abdomen, pelvis, and extremities
 - Brain and spine imaging when not obscured by dense bony structures
 - Vascular imaging when not obscured by dense bony structures
 - Procedural guidance when not obscured by dense bony structures

- Initial evaluation of ill-defined soft tissue masses or fullness and differentiating adenopathy from mass or cyst. Prior to advanced imaging, ultrasound can be very beneficial in selecting the proper modality, body area, image sequences, and contrast level that will provide the most definitive information for the individual.
- More specific guidance for ultrasound usage, including exceptions to this general guidance, can be found throughout the condition-specific guidelines.

Computed Tomography (CT)

- The AMA CPT[®] manual does not describe nor assign any minimum or maximum number of sequences for any CT study. CT imaging protocols are often influenced by the individual's clinical situation and additional sequences are not uncommon. There are numerous CT protocols that may be performed to evaluate specific clinical questions, and this technology is constantly undergoing development.
- CT utilizes ionizing radiation to create cross-sectional and volumetric images of the body.
 - Advantages over ultrasound include a much larger field of view and faster completion time in general. Disadvantages compared to ultrasound include lack of portability and exposure to ionizing radiation.
 - Advantages over MRI include faster imaging and a more spacious scanner area limiting claustrophobia. Disadvantages compared to MRI include decreased soft tissue definition, especially with non-contrast imaging, and exposure to ionizing radiation.
- CT can be performed without, with, or without and with intravenous (IV) contrast depending on the clinical indication and body area.
 - In general, non-contrast imaging is appropriate for evaluating structures with significant tissue density differences such as lung parenchyma and bony structures, or when there is a contraindication to contrast.
 - In general, CT with contrast is the most common level of contrast and can be used when there is need for improved vascular or soft tissue resolution, including better characterization of known or suspected malignancy, as well as infectious and inflammatory conditions.
 - CT without and with contrast has a limited role as the risks of doubling the ionizing radiation exposure rarely outweigh the benefits of multiphasic imaging, though there are some exceptions which include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Characterization of a mass
 - Characterization of arterial and venous anatomy
 - CT with contrast may be used to better characterize findings on a very recent (within two weeks) inconclusive non-contrast CT where the guidelines would support CT without and with contrast.
 - More specific guidance for CT contrast usage, including exceptions to this general guidance, can be found throughout the condition-specific guidelines.

- Shellfish allergy:
 - It is commonly assumed that an allergy to shellfish indicates iodine allergy, and that this implies an allergy to iodinated contrast media used with CT. However, this is NOT true. Shellfish allergy is due to tropomyosins. Iodine plays no role in these allergic reactions. Allergies to shellfish do not increase the risk of reaction to iodinated contrast media any more than that of other allergens.
- Enteric contrast (oral or rectal) is sometimes used in abdominal imaging. There is no specific CPT[®] code which refers to enteric contrast.
- The appropriate contrast level and anatomic region in CT imaging is specific to the clinical indication, as listed in the condition-specific guideline sections.
- CT should not be used to replace MRI in an attempt to avoid sedation unless it is listed as a recommended study in the appropriate condition-specific guideline.
- There are significant potential adverse effects associated with the use of iodinated contrast media. These include hypersensitivity reactions, thyroid dysfunction, and contrast-induced nephropathy (CIN). Individuals with impaired renal function are at increased risk for CIN.
- Both contrast CT and MRI are considered to have the same risk profile with renal failure (GFR <30mL/min).
- The use of CT contrast should proceed with caution in pregnant and breastfeeding individuals. There is a theoretical risk of contrast toxicity to the fetal and infant thyroid. The procedure can be performed if the specific need for that contrast-enhanced procedure outweighs risk to the fetus. Breastfeeding individuals may reduce this risk by choosing to pump and discard breast milk for 12-24 hours after the contrast injection.
- CT without contrast is medically necessary if clinical criteria for CT with contrast are met AND the individual has/is:
 - elevated blood urea nitrogen (BUN) and/or creatinine
 - renal insufficiency
 - allergies to iodinated contrast
 - thyroid disease which could be treated with I-131
 - diabetes
 - very elderly
 - urgent or emergent settings due to availability
 - trauma
- CT is superior to other imaging modalities in certain conditions including, but not limited to, the following:
 - Screening following trauma
 - Imaging pulmonary disease
 - Imaging abdominal and pelvic viscera
 - Imaging of complex fractures

- Evaluation of inconclusive findings on Ultrasound or MRI, or if there is a contraindication to MRI
- More specific guidance for CT usage, including exceptions to this general guidance, can be found throughout the condition-specific guidelines.

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)

- The AMA CPT[®] manual does not describe nor assign any minimum or maximum number of sequences for any MRI study. MRI protocols are often influenced by the individual's clinical situation and additional sequences are not uncommon. There are numerous MRI sequences that may be performed to evaluate specific clinical questions, and this technology is constantly undergoing development.
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) utilizes the interaction between the intrinsic radiofrequency of certain molecules in the body (hydrogen in most cases) and a strong external magnetic field.
 - MRI is often superior for advanced imaging of soft tissues and can also define physiological processes in some instances (e.g., edema, loss of circulation [AVN], and increased vascularity [tumors]).
 - MRI does not use ionizing radiation and even non-contrast images have much higher soft tissue definition than CT or Ultrasound.
 - MRI typically takes much longer than either CT or Ultrasound, and for some individuals may require sedation. It is also much more sensitive to individual motion that can degrade image quality than either CT or Ultrasound.
- MRI Breast and MRI Chest are not interchangeable, as they focus detailed sequences on different adjacent body parts.
- MRI may be utilized either as the primary advanced imaging modality, or when further definition is needed based on CT or ultrasound imaging.
- Most orthopedic and dental implants are not magnetic. These include hip and knee replacements; plates, screws, and rods used to treat fractures; and cavity fillings. Yet, all of these metal implants can distort the MRI image if near the part of the body being scanned.
 - Other implants, however, may have contraindications to MRI. These include the following:
 - pacemakers
 - ICD or heart valves
 - metal implants in the brain
 - metal implants in the eyes or ears
 - infusion catheters and bullets or shrapnel
 - CT can therefore be an alternative study to MRI in these scenarios.
- The contrast level and anatomic region in MRI imaging is specific to the clinical indication, as listed in the specific guideline sections.

- MRI utilizing Xenon Xe 129 (CPT® C9791) for contrast is considered investigational and experimental at this time. MRI with or with and without contrast in these guidelines refers to MRI utilizing gadolinium for contrast.
- MRI is commonly performed without, and without and with contrast.
 - Non-contrast imaging offers excellent tissue definition.
 - Imaging without and with contrast is commonly used when needed to better characterize tissue perfusion and vascularization.
 - Most contrast is gadolinium based and causes T2 brightening of the vascular and extracellular spaces.
 - Some specialized gadolinium and non-gadolinium contrast agents are available, and are most commonly used for characterizing liver lesions.
 - MRI with contrast only is rarely appropriate and is usually used to better characterize findings on a recent inconclusive non-contrast MRI, commonly called a completion study.
 - MRI contrast is relatively contraindicated in pregnant individuals.
 - More specific guidance for MRI contrast usage, including exceptions to this general guidance, can be found throughout the condition-specific guidelines.
- MRI may be preferred in individuals with renal failure and in individuals allergic to intravenous CT contrast.
 - Both contrast CT and MRI are considered to have the same risk profile with renal failure (GFR <30mL/min).
 - Gadolinium can cause Nephrogenic Systemic Fibrosis (NSF). The greater the exposure to gadolinium in individuals with a low GFR (especially if on dialysis), the greater the chance of individuals developing NSF.
 - Multiple studies have demonstrated potential for gadolinium deposition following the use of gadolinium-based contrast agents (GBCAs) for MRI studies. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has noted that there is currently no evidence to suggest that gadolinium retention in the brain is harmful and restricting GBCAs use is not warranted at this time. It has been recommended that GBCA use should be limited to circumstances in which additional information provided by the contrast agent is necessary and the necessity of repetitive MRIs with GBCAs should be assessed.
- A CT is medically necessary in place of an MRI when clinical criteria are met for MRI AND there is a contraindication to having an MRI (e.g., pacemaker, ICD, insulin pump, neurostimulator, etc.).
 - When replacing MRI with CT, contrast level matching should occur as follows:
 - MRI without contrast → CT without contrast
 - MRI without and with contrast → CT with contrast or CT without and with contrast
- The following situations may impact the appropriateness for MRI and/or MR contrast:

- Caution should be taken in the use of gadolinium in individuals with renal failure.
- The use of gadolinium contrast agents is relatively contraindicated during pregnancy unless the specific need for that procedure outweighs risk to the fetus.
- MRI can be performed for non-ferromagnetic body metals (i.e., titanium), although some imaging facilities will consider it contraindicated if recent surgery, regardless of the metal type.
- MRI should not be used as a replacement for CT for the sole reason of avoidance of ionizing radiation when MRI is not medically necessary in the condition-based guidelines, since it does not solve the problem of overutilization.
- MRI is superior to other imaging modalities in certain conditions including, but not limited to, the following:
 - Imaging the brain and spinal cord
 - Characterizing visceral and musculoskeletal soft tissue masses
 - Evaluating musculoskeletal soft tissues including ligaments and tendons
 - Evaluating inconclusive findings on ultrasound or CT
 - Individuals who are pregnant or have high radiation sensitivity
 - Suspicion, diagnosis, or surveillance of infections
- More specific guidance for MRI usage, including exceptions to this general guidance, can be found throughout the condition-specific guidelines.

Positron Emission Tomography (PET)

- PET is a nuclear medicine study that uses a positron emitting radiotracer to create cross-sectional and volumetric images based on tissue metabolism.
- Conventional imaging (frequently CT, sometimes MRI or bone scan) of the affected area(s) drives much of initial and restaging and surveillance imaging for malignancy and other chronic conditions. PET is not medically necessary for surveillance imaging unless specifically stated in the condition-specific guideline sections.
- PET/MRI is generally not medically necessary, see **PET-MRI (Preface-5.3)**.
- PET is rarely performed as a single modality, but is typically performed as a combined PET/CT.
 - The unbundling of PET/CT into separate PET and diagnostic CT CPT[®] codes is not medically necessary, because PET/CT is done as a single study.
- PET/CT lacks the tissue definition of CT or MRI but is fairly specific for metabolic activity based on the radiotracer used.
- Indications for PET/CT may include the following:
 - Oncologic Imaging for evaluation of tumor metabolic activity
 - Cardiac Imaging for evaluation of myocardial metabolic activity
 - Brain Imaging for evaluation of metabolic activity for procedural planning
- More specific guidance for PET usage, including exceptions to this general guidance, can be found throughout the condition-specific guidelines.

Overutilization of Advanced Imaging

- A number of reports describe overutilization in many areas of advanced imaging and other procedures, which may include the following:
 - High-level testing without consideration of less invasive, lower cost options which may adequately address the clinical question at hand
 - Excessive radiation and costs with unnecessary testing
 - Defensive medical practice
 - CT without and with contrast (so called "double contrast studies") requests, which have few current indications
 - MRI requested in place of CT to avoid radiation without considering the primary indication for imaging
 - Adult CT settings and protocols used for smaller people and children
 - Unnecessary imaging procedures when the same or similar studies have already been conducted
- A review of the imaging or other relevant procedural histories of all individuals presenting for studies has been recognized as one of the more important processes that can be significantly improved. By recognizing that a duplicate or questionably medically necessary imaging study has been ordered for individuals, it may be possible to avoid exposing them to unnecessary risks. To avoid these unnecessary risks, the precautions below should be considered:
 - The results of initial diagnostic tests or radiologic studies to narrow the differential diagnosis should be obtained prior to performing further tests or radiologic studies.
 - The clinical history should include a potential indication such as a known or suspected abnormality involving the body part for which the imaging study is being requested. These potential indications are addressed in greater detail within the applicable guidelines.
 - The results of the requested imaging procedures should be expected to have an impact on individual management or treatment decisions.
 - Repeat imaging studies are not generally necessary unless there is evidence of disease progression, recurrence of disease, and/or the repeat imaging will affect an individual's clinical management.
- Pre-operative imaging/pre-surgical planning imaging/pre-procedure imaging is not medically necessary if the surgery/procedure is not medically necessary. Once the procedure has been approved or if the procedure does not require prior authorization, the appropriate pre-procedural imaging may be approved.

Health Equity Considerations

Health equity is the highest level of health for all individuals; health inequity is the avoidable difference in health status or distribution of health resources due to the social

conditions in which individuals are born, grow, live, work, and age. Social determinants of health are the conditions in the environment that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality of life outcomes and risks. Examples include the following: safe housing, transportation, and neighborhoods; racism, discrimination, and violence; education, job opportunities, and income; access to nutritious foods and physical activity opportunities; access to clean air and water; and language and literacy skills.

References (Preface-3)

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Guideline

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3D Rendering (Preface-4.1)

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CPT[®] 76376 and CPT[®] 76377

- Both codes require concurrent supervision of the image post-processing 3D manipulation of the volumetric data set and image rendering.
 - Concurrent supervision is defined as active physician participation in and monitoring of the reconstruction process including design of the anatomic region that is to be reconstructed; determination of the tissue types and actual structures to be displayed (e.g., bone, organs, and vessels); determination of the images or cine loops that are to be archived; and, monitoring and adjustment of the 3D work product. The American College of Radiology (ACR) recommended that it is best to document the physician's supervision or participation in the 3D reconstruction of images.
- These two codes differ in the need for and use of an independent workstation for post-processing.
 - CPT[®] 76376 reports procedures not requiring image post-processing on an independent workstation.
 - CPT[®] 76377 reports procedures that require image post-processing on an independent workstation.
- These 3D rendering codes should not be used for 2D reformatting.
- Two-dimensional reconstruction (e.g., reformatting an axial scan into the coronal plane) is now included in all cross-sectional imaging base codes and is not separately reimbursable.
- The codes used to report 3D rendering for ultrasound and echocardiography are also used to report the 3D post processing work on CT, MRI, and other tomographic modalities.
- Providers may be required to obtain prior authorization on these 3D codes even if prior authorization is not required for the echocardiography and/or ultrasound procedure codes. It may appear that UnitedHealthcare pre-authorizes echocardiography and/or ultrasound when, in fact, it may only be the 3D code that needs the prior authorization.
- CPT[®] codes for 3D rendering should not be billed in conjunction with computer-aided detection (CAD), MRA, CTA, nuclear medicine SPECT studies, PET, PET/CT, stereotactic localization (CPT[®] 77011 or CPT[®] 70486 if used), Mammogram, MRI Breast, US Breast, CT Colonography (virtual colonoscopy), Cardiac MRI, Cardiac CT, or Coronary CTA studies.

- CPT® 76377 (3D rendering requiring image post-processing on an independent workstation) or CPT® 76376 (3D rendering not requiring image post-processing on an independent workstation) can be considered in the following clinical scenarios:
 - Bony conditions:
 - Evaluation of congenital skull abnormalities in newborns, infants, and toddlers (usually for pre-operative planning)
 - Complex fractures (comminuted or displaced)/dislocations of any joint (for pre-operative planning when conventional imaging is insufficient)
 - Spine fractures, pelvic/acetabulum fractures, intra-articular fractures (for pre-operative planning when conventional imaging is insufficient)
 - Pre-operative planning for other complex surgical cases
 - Complex facial fractures
 - Pre-operative planning for other complex surgical cases
 - Cerebral angiography
 - Pelvis conditions:
 - Uterine intra-cavitary lesion when initial US is equivocal: See **Abnormal Uterine Bleeding (AUB) (PV-2.1)** and **Leiomyoma/Uterine Fibroids (PV-12.1)** in the Pelvis Imaging Guidelines.
 - Hydrosalpinx or peritoneal cysts when initial US is indeterminate: See **Complex Adnexal Masses (PV-5.3)** in the Pelvis Imaging Guidelines.
 - Lost IUD (inability to feel or see IUD string) with initial US: See **Intrauterine Device (PV-10.1)** in the Pelvis Imaging Guidelines.
 - Uterine anomalies with initial US: See **Uterine Anomalies (PV-14.1)** in the Pelvis Imaging Guidelines.
 - Infertility: See **Initial Infertility Evaluation, Female (PV-9.1)** in the Pelvis Imaging Guidelines.
 - Abdomen conditions:
 - CT Urogram: See **Hematuria and Hydronephrosis (AB-39)** in the Abdomen Imaging Guidelines.
 - MRCP: See **MR Cholangiopancreatography (MRCP) (AB-27)** in the Abdomen Imaging Guidelines.

CT-, MR-, or Ultrasound-Guided Procedures (Preface-4.2)

PRF.CD.0004.2.A

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- CT-, MR-, and Ultrasound-guidance procedure codes contain all of the imaging necessary to guide a needle or catheter. It is inappropriate to routinely bill a diagnostic procedure code in conjunction with a guidance procedure code.
- Imaging studies performed as part of a CT-, MR-, or Ultrasound-guided procedure should be reported using the CPT® codes in the following table:

TABLE: Imaging Guidance Procedure Codes

CPT®	Description
19085	Biopsy, breast, with placement of breast localization device(s), when performed, and imaging of the biopsy specimen, when performed, percutaneous; first lesion, including MR guidance
19086	Biopsy, breast, with placement of breast localization device(s), when performed, and imaging of the biopsy specimen, when performed, percutaneous; each additional lesion, including MR guidance
75989	Imaging guidance for percutaneous drainage with placement of catheter (all modalities)
76942	Ultrasonic guidance for needle placement
77011	CT guidance for stereotactic localization
77012	CT guidance for needle placement
77013	CT guidance for, and monitoring of parenchymal tissue ablation
77021	MR guidance for needle placement
77022	MR guidance for, and monitoring of parenchymal tissue ablation

CPT [®]	Description
C8001	3D anatomical segmentation imaging for preoperative planning, data preparation and transmission, obtained from previous diagnostic CT or MR examination of the same anatomy

CPT[®] 19085 and CPT[®] 19086

- The proper way to bill an MRI-guided breast biopsy is CPT[®] 19085 (Biopsy, breast, with placement of breast localization device(s), when performed, and imaging of the biopsy specimen, when performed, percutaneous; first lesion, including MR guidance). Additional lesions should be billed using CPT[®] 19086.
 - CPT[®] 77021** (MR guidance for needle placement) is not an appropriate code for a breast biopsy.

CPT[®] 75989

- This code is used to report imaging guidance for a percutaneous drainage procedure in which a catheter is left in place.
- This code can be used to report whether the drainage catheter is placed under fluoroscopy, Ultrasound-, CT-, or MR-guidance modality.

CPT[®] 77011

- A stereotactic CT localization scan is frequently obtained prior to sinus surgery. The dataset is then loaded into the navigational workstation in the operating room for use during the surgical procedure. The information provides exact positioning of surgical instruments with regard to the individual's 3D CT images.
- In most cases, the pre-operative CT is a technical-only service that does not require interpretation by a radiologist.
 - The imaging facility should report CPT[®] 77011 when performing a scan not requiring interpretation by a radiologist.
 - If a diagnostic scan is performed and interpreted by a radiologist, the appropriate diagnostic CT code (e.g., CPT[®] 70486) should be used.
 - It is not appropriate to report both CPT[®] 70486 and CPT[®] 77011 for the same CT stereotactic localization imaging session.
 - 3D Rendering (CPT[®] 76376 or CPT[®] 76377) should not be reported in conjunction with CPT[®] 77011 (or CPT[®] 70486 if used). The procedure inherently generates a 3D dataset.

CPT[®] 77012 (CT) and CPT[®] 77021 (MR)

- These codes are used to report imaging guidance for needle placement during biopsy, aspiration, and other percutaneous procedures.
- They represent the radiological supervision and interpretation of the procedure and are often billed in conjunction with surgical procedure codes.
 - For example, CPT[®] 77012 is reported when CT guidance is used to place the needle for a conventional arthrogram.
 - Only codes representing percutaneous surgical procedures should be billed with CPT[®] 77012 and CPT[®] 77021. It is inappropriate to use with surgical codes for open, excisional, or incisional procedures.
 - **CPT[®] 77021** (MR guidance for needle placement) is not an appropriate code for breast or prostate biopsy.
 - CPT[®] 19085 would be appropriate for the first breast biopsy site and CPT[®] 19086 would be appropriate for additional concurrent biopsies.

CPT[®] 77013 (CT) and CPT[®] 77022 (MR)

- These codes include the initial guidance to direct a needle electrode to the tumor(s), monitoring for needle electrode repositioning within the lesion, and as necessary for multiple ablations to coagulate the lesion and confirmation of satisfactory coagulative necrosis of the lesion(s) and comparison to pre-ablation images.
 - **NOTE:** CPT[®] 77013 should only be used for non-bone ablation procedures.
 - CPT[®] 20982 includes CT guidance for bone tumor ablations.
 - Only codes representing percutaneous surgical procedures should be billed with CPT[®] 77013 and CPT[®] 77022. It is inappropriate to use with surgical codes for open, excisional, or incisional procedures.
- CPT[®] 77012 and CPT[®] 77021 (as well as guidance codes CPT[®] 76942 [US], and CPT[®] 77002 - CPT[®] 77003 [fluoroscopy]) describe radiologic guidance by different modalities.
 - Only one unit of any of these codes should be reported per individual encounter (date of service). The unit of service is considered to be the individual encounter, not the number of lesions, aspirations, biopsies, injections, or localizations.

Unlisted Procedures/Therapy Treatment Planning (Preface-4.3)

PRF.CD.0004.3.UOH

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Unlisted Procedures

CPT [®]	Description
76497	Unlisted CT procedure (e.g., diagnostic or interventional)
76498	Unlisted MR procedure (e.g., diagnostic or interventional)
78999	Unlisted procedure, diagnostic nuclear medicine

- For general information related to unlisted procedures, please refer to **Management of Unlisted Codes**.
- These unlisted codes should be reported whenever a diagnostic or interventional CT or MR study is performed in which an appropriate anatomic site-specific code is not available.
 - A Category III code that describes the procedure performed must be reported rather than an unlisted code if one is available.
- CPT[®] 76497 or CPT[®] 76498 (Unlisted CT or MRI procedure) is medically necessary in the following clinical scenarios:
 - Studies done for navigation and planning for neurosurgical procedures (i.e., Stealth or Brain Lab Imaging)
 - Custom joint arthroplasty planning (not as an alternative recommendation): See **Osteoarthritis (MS-12.1)** in the Musculoskeletal Imaging Guidelines.
 - Any procedure/surgical planning if thinner cuts or different positional acquisition (than those on the completed diagnostic study) are needed. These could include navigational bronchoscopy: See **Navigational Bronchoscopy and Biopsy (CH-1.7)** in the Chest Imaging Guidelines.

Therapy Treatment Planning

- Radiation Therapy Treatment Planning: See **Unlisted Procedure Codes in Oncology (ONC-1.5)** in the Oncology Imaging Guidelines.

CPT® 76380 Limited or Follow-up CT (Preface-4.5)

PRF.CD.0004.5.UOH

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- CPT® 76380 describes a limited or follow-up CT scan. The code is used to report any CT scan, for any given area of the body, in which the work of a full diagnostic code is not performed.
- Common examples include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Limited sinus CT imaging protocol
 - Limited or follow-up slices through a known pulmonary nodule
 - Limited slices to assess a non-healing fracture (such as the clavicle)
- Limited CT (CPT® 76380) is not medically necessary for treatment planning purposes. See **Unlisted Procedure Codes in Oncology (ONC-1.5)** in the Oncology Imaging Guidelines.
- It is inappropriate to report CPT® 76380, in conjunction with other diagnostic CT codes, to cover 'extra slices' in certain imaging protocols.
 - There is no specific number of sequences or slices defined in any CT CPT® code definition.
 - The AMA, in *CPT® 2019*, does not describe nor assign any minimum or maximum number of sequences or slices for any CT study.
 - A few additional slices or sequences are not uncommon.
 - CT imaging protocols are often influenced by the individual's clinical situation. Sometimes the protocols require more time and sometimes less.

SPECT/CT Imaging (Preface-4.6)

PRF.CD.0004.6.A

v2.0.2026

- SPECT/CT involves SPECT (Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography) nuclear medicine imaging and CT for optimizing location, accuracy, and attenuation correction and combines functional and anatomic information.
 - Common studies using this modality include ^{123}I - or ^{131}I -Metaiodobenzylguanidine (MIBG) and octreotide scintigraphy for neuroendocrine tumors.
- Hybrid Nuclear/CT scan can be reported as CPT[®] 78830 (single area and single day), CPT[®] 78831 (2 or more days), or CPT[®] 78832 (2 areas with one day and 2-day study).
- CPT[®] 78072 became effective January 1, 2013 for SPECT/CT parathyroid nuclear imaging.

CPT® 76140 Interpretation of an Outside Study (Preface-4.7)

PRF.CD.0004.7.UOH

v2.0.2026

- It is inappropriate to use diagnostic imaging codes for interpretation of a previously performed exam that was completed at another facility.
 - If the outside exam is being used for comparison with a current exam, the diagnostic code for the current examination includes comparison to the prior study.
 - CPT® 76140 is the appropriate code to use for an exam which was completed elsewhere and a secondary interpretation of the images is requested.

Quantitative MR Analysis (Preface-4.8)

PRF.CD.0004.8.A

v2.0.2026

- Category III CPT[®] codes for quantitative analysis of multiparametric-MR (mp-MRI) data with and without an associated diagnostic MRI have been established. Quantitative mp-MRI uses software to analyze tissue physiology of visceral organs and other anatomic structures non-invasively.
- For criteria associated with these types of studies, please see the condition-specific guidelines.

HCPCS Codes (Preface-4.9)

PRF.CD.0004.9.UOH

v2.0.2026

- Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes are utilized by some hospitals in favor of the typical Level-III CPT[®] codes. These codes are typically 4 digits preceded by a C or S.
 - Many of these codes have similar code descriptions to Level-III CPT[®] codes (i.e., C8931 – MRA with dye, Spinal Canal; and, CPT[®] 72159 – MRA Spinal Canal).
 - If cases are submitted with HCPCS codes with similar code descriptions to the typical Level-III CPT[®] codes, those procedures should be managed in the same manner as the typical CPT[®] codes.
 - HCPCS code management is discussed further in the applicable guideline sections.
- Requests for many Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes, including non-specific codes such as S8042 (Magnetic resonance imaging [MRI], low-field), should be redirected to a more appropriate and specific CPT[®] code. Exceptions are noted in the applicable guideline sections.

References (Preface-4)

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Whole-Body Imaging (Preface-5)

Guideline

Whole-Body CT Imaging (Preface-5.1)
Whole-Body MR Imaging (Preface-5.2)
PET/MRI (Preface-5.3)
References (Preface-5)

Whole-Body CT Imaging (Preface-5.1)

PRF.WB.0005.1.UOH

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- Whole-body CT or LifeScan (CT Brain, Chest, Abdomen, and Pelvis) for screening of asymptomatic individuals is not a covered benefit. The performance of whole-body screening CT examinations in healthy individuals does not meet any of the current validity criteria for screening studies and there is no clear documentation of benefit versus radiation risk.
- Whole-body low-dose skeletal CT is supported for oncologic staging in Multiple Myeloma. See **Multiple Myeloma and Plasmacytomas (ONC-25)** in the Oncology Imaging Guidelines.

Whole-Body MR Imaging (Preface-5.2)

PRF.WB.0005.2.A

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- Whole-body MRI (WBMRI) is, with the exception of select cancer predisposition syndromes and autoimmune conditions discussed below, generally not medically necessary at this time due to lack of standardization in imaging technique and lack of evidence that WBMRI improves outcome for any individual disease state.
 - While WBMRI has the benefit of whole-body imaging and lack of radiation exposure, substantial variation still exists in the number of images, type of sequences (STIR vs. diffusion weighting, for example), and contrast agent(s) used.
- Coding considerations:
 - There are no established CPT[®] or HCPCS codes for reporting WBMRI.
 - WBMRI is at present only reportable using CPT[®] 76498. All other methods of reporting whole-body MRI are inappropriate including the following:
 - Separate diagnostic MRI codes for multiple individual body parts
 - MRI Bone Marrow Supply (CPT[®] 77084)
- Disease-specific considerations:
 - Cancer screening:
 - Interval WBMRI is recommended for cancer screening in individuals with select cancer predisposition syndromes. Otherwise, WBMRI has not been shown to improve outcomes for cancer screening.
 - For additional information, see **Li-Fraumeni Syndrome (LFS) (PEDONC-2.2)**, **Neurofibromatosis 1 and 2 (NF1 and NF2) (PEDONC-2.3)**, **Rhabdoid Tumor Predisposition Syndrome (PEDONC-2.11)**, **Hereditary Paraganglioma-Pheochromocytoma (HPP) Syndromes (PEDONC-2.13)**, **Constitutional Mismatch Repair Deficiency (CMMRD or Turcot Syndrome) (PEDONC-2.15)**, **Infantile Myofibromatosis (PEDONC-2.18)**, or **Bloom Syndrome (PEDONC-2.19)** in the Pediatric and Special Populations Oncology Imaging Guidelines.
 - Cancer staging and restaging:
 - Whole-body MRI has limited indications in staging and restaging of multiple myeloma. See **Multiple Myeloma and Plasmacytomas (ONC-25)** in the Oncology Imaging Guidelines for additional details.
 - Evidence has not been published establishing WBMRI as a standard evaluation for any other type of cancer.
 - Autoimmune disease:
 - WBMRI can be approved in some situations for individuals with chronic recurrent multifocal osteomyelitis.

- For additional information, see **Chronic Recurrent Multifocal Osteomyelitis (PEDMS-10.2)** in the Pediatric Musculoskeletal Imaging Guidelines.

PET/MRI (Preface-5.3)

PRF.WB.0005.3.A

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- PET/MRI is generally not medically necessary for a vast majority of oncologic and neurologic conditions due to lack of standardization in imaging technique and interpretation. However, it is medically necessary in select circumstances when the following criteria are met:
 - The individual meets condition-specific guidelines for PET/MRI OR
 - The individual meets ALL of the following:
 - The individual meets guideline criteria for PET/CT, **AND**
 - PET/CT is not available at the treating institution, **AND**
 - The provider requests PET/MRI in lieu of PET/CT
- When the above criteria are met, PET/MRI is reported using the code combination of PET Whole-Body (CPT® 78813) and MRI Unlisted (CPT® 76498). All other methods of reporting PET/MRI are inappropriate.
 - When clinically appropriate, diagnostic MRI codes can be medically necessary at the same time as the PET/MRI code combination.
- For more information, please see the appropriate condition-based guideline.

References (Preface-5)

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References (Preface-6)

Guideline

References (Preface-6.1)

References (Preface-6.1)

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- Complete reference citations for the journal articles are embedded within the body of the guidelines and/or may be found on the Reference pages at the end of some guideline sections.

General Guidelines (PEDONC-1)

Guideline

Abbreviations for Pediatric and Special Populations Oncology Imaging Guidelines
General Guidelines (PEDONC-1.0)
Age Considerations (PEDONC-1.1)
Appropriate Clinical Evaluations (PEDONC-1.2)
Modality General Considerations (PEDONC-1.3)
PET Imaging in Pediatric Oncology (PEDONC-1.4)
Diagnostic Radiation Exposure in Pediatric Oncology (PEDONC-1.5)
References (PEDONC-1)

Abbreviations for Pediatric and Special Populations Oncology Imaging Guidelines

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Abbreviations for Pediatric and Special Populations Oncology Imaging Guidelines	
AFP	alpha-fetoprotein (tumor marker)
ALCL	anaplastic large cell lymphoma
ALL	acute lymphoblastic leukemia
AML	acute myelogenous leukemia
β-hCG	human chorionic gonadotropin beta-subunit (tumor marker)
BKL	Burkitt's lymphoma
BWT	bilateral Wilms tumor
CCSK	clear cell sarcoma of the kidney
CNS	central nervous system
COG	Children's Oncology group
CPT®	current procedural terminology; trademark of the American Medical Association
CSF	cerebrospinal fluid
CT	computed tomography
CXR	chest x-ray

Abbreviations for Pediatric and Special Populations Oncology Imaging Guidelines

DAWT	diffuse anaplasia Wilms tumor
ESFT	Ewing sarcoma family of tumors
FAWT	focal anaplasia Wilms tumor
FHWT	favorable histology Wilms tumor
HL	Hodgkin lymphoma
HSCT	hematopoietic stem cell transplant (bone marrow or peripheral blood)
HVA	homovanillic acid
LL	lymphoblastic lymphoma
MIBG	metaiodobenzylguanidine (nuclear scan using ¹²³ I or ¹³¹ I)
MPNST	malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumor
MRI	magnetic resonance imaging
NBL	neuroblastoma
NED	no evidence of disease
NHL	non-Hodgkin lymphoma
NPC	nasopharyngeal carcinoma
NRSTS	nonrhabdomyosarcomatous soft tissue sarcomas
OS	osteosarcoma
PET	positron emission tomography
PMBCL	primary mediastinal b-cell lymphoma

Abbreviations for Pediatric and Special Populations Oncology Imaging Guidelines

PNET	primitive neuroectodermal tumor
RCC	renal cell carcinoma
RMS	rhabdomyosarcoma
US	ultrasound
VMA	vannilylmandelic acid
WBC	white blood cell count
XRT	radiation therapy

General Guidelines (PEDONC-1.0)

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v2.0.2026

- A relevant clinical evaluation or meaningful contact (telephone call, electronic mail or messaging) should be performed prior to considering advanced imaging, unless the individual is undergoing guideline-supported scheduled off therapy surveillance evaluation or cancer screening. The clinical evaluation may include a relevant history and physical examination, including biopsy, appropriate laboratory studies, and results of non-advanced or advanced imaging modalities.
 - Because of the relatively small number of childhood cancer treatment centers, it is common to combine off-therapy visits with imaging and other sub-specialist visits to accommodate families traveling long distances for their child's care.
- Unless otherwise stated in the disease-specific guideline, a histological confirmation of malignancy (or recurrence) and the stage of disease is required to perform a medical necessity review of the requested imaging.
- Unless otherwise stated in the disease-specific guideline, advanced imaging of asymptomatic individuals is not routinely medically necessary without signs or symptoms of systemic involvement of cancer.
- Conventional imaging performed prior to diagnosis should not be repeated unless there is a delay of at least 6 weeks since previous imaging and treatment initiation or there are new or significantly worsening clinical signs or symptoms
- Generally, the studies listed in the disease-specific sections reflect the studies supported by current literature and research for that condition. If a study is not listed, then it is not medically necessary.
- Routine imaging of brain, spine, neck, chest, abdomen, pelvis, bones, or other body areas is not medically necessary except where explicitly stated in a diagnosis-specific guideline section, or if one of the following applies:
 - Known prior disease involving the requested body area
 - New or worsening symptoms or physical exam findings involving the requested body area (including non-specific findings such as ascites or pleural effusion)
 - New finding on basic imaging study such as plain x-ray or ultrasound
 - New finding on adjacent body area CT/MRI study (i.e., pleural effusion observed on CT abdomen)
 - Unless otherwise stated in the disease-specific guideline, advanced imaging of asymptomatic individuals is not routinely supported without signs or symptoms of systemic involvement of cancer.

- Repeat imaging studies are not generally medically necessary unless there is evidence of disease progression, recurrence of disease, and/or the repeat imaging will affect an individual's clinical management.
- Unless otherwise stated in the diagnosis-specific guidelines, imaging for treatment response is medically necessary after every 2 cycles, which is usually ~6 weeks of therapy for solid tumors and usually ~8 to 12 weeks for CNS tumors
- Unless otherwise specified for a specific cancer type, once PET has been documented to be negative for a given individual's cancer or all PET-avid disease has been surgically resected, PET is not medically necessary for continued disease monitoring or surveillance unless one of the following applies:
 - Conventional imaging (CT, MRI, US, plain film) reveals findings that are inconclusive or suspicious for recurrence
 - Residual mass that has not changed in size since the last conventional imaging does not justify PET imaging
 - PET avidity in a residual mass at the end of planned therapy is not an indication for PET imaging during surveillance

Clarification of phases of therapy

Phases of Oncology Imaging	Definition
Screening	• Imaging requested for individuals at increased risk for a particular cancer in the absence of known clinical signs or symptoms • Screening using advancing imaging is only supported for conditions listed in <u>Screening Imaging in Cancer Predisposition Syndromes (PEDONC-2)</u>
Suspected/Initial Staging	• All imaging studies requested from the time cancer is first clinically suspected until the initiation of specific treatment ◦ CT Chest prior to anesthesia for biopsy or resection of solid tumors and CTs of other involved body areas are generally indicated and should be performed concurrently ◦ Metastatic CNS imaging and nuclear medicine imaging are generally deferred until after a histologic diagnosis is made, unless otherwise indicated by diagnosis-specific guideline

Phases of Oncology Imaging	Definition
Treatment Response	- Imaging performed during any type of active treatment (chemotherapy or other medications, radiation therapy, or surgery), including evaluation at the end of planned active treatment - Unless otherwise stated in the diagnosis-specific guidelines, imaging for treatment response is medically necessary after every 2 cycles, which is usually ~6 weeks of therapy for solid tumors and usually ~8 to 12 weeks for CNS tumors
Surveillance	- Imaging performed in individuals who are asymptomatic or have chronic stable symptoms and not receiving any active treatment, even if residual imaging abnormalities are present - PET imaging is not medically necessary for surveillance imaging unless specifically stated elsewhere in the diagnosis-specific guideline sections
Recurrence	- All imaging studies completed at the time a recurrence or progression of a known cancer is strongly suspected or documented based on clinical signs or symptoms, laboratory findings, or results of basic imaging studies such as plain radiography or ultrasound - Following documented recurrence of childhood cancer, any studies recommended for initial staging of that cancer type in the diagnosis-specific imaging guideline section should be approved - During active treatment for recurrent pediatric cancer, conventional imaging evaluation (CT or MRI, should use the same modality for ongoing monitoring as much as possible) of previously involved areas is medically necessary according to the treatment response imaging in the diagnosis-specific guideline section - Always refer to the diagnosis specific guideline for PET indications in recurrence.

- Brain imaging is performed for signs or symptoms of brain disease.
 - MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT® 70553) is the medically necessary study for evaluation of suspected or known brain metastases. If a non-contrast CT head shows suspicious lesion, MRI Brain is medically necessary to further characterize the lesion.

- CT Head without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70470) is medically necessary when MRI is contraindicated or not available, or if there is skull bone involvement.
- Certain malignancies including, but not limited to, melanoma, lung cancer, and renal cell cancer have indications for brain imaging for asymptomatic individuals,
- If stage IV disease is demonstrated elsewhere or if systemic disease progression is noted, refer to disease specific guidelines
- Initiation of angiogenesis therapy is not an indication for advanced imaging of the brain in asymptomatic individuals (Avastin/Bevacizumab; <3% risk of bleeding and <1% risk of serious bleeding)
- Bone Scan:
 - Primarily used for evaluation of bone metastases in individuals with solid malignancies.
 - Indications for bone scan in individuals with history of malignancy include – bone pain, rising tumor markers, elevated alkaline phosphatase, or in individuals with primary bone tumor.
 - For evaluation of suspected or known bony metastases, CPT[®] 78306 (Nuclear bone scan whole-body) is medically necessary.
 - Radiopharmaceutical Localization scan SPECT (CPT[®] 78803 or CPT[®] 78831) or SPECT/CT (CPT[®] 78830 or CPT[®] 78832) is medically necessary as an add-on test for further evaluation of a specific area of interest.
 - CPT[®] codes 78300 (Nuclear bone scan limited), 78305 (Nuclear bone scan multiple areas), or 78315 do not have any indications in oncology nuclear medicine imaging.
- Bone scan supplemented by plain x-rays are the initial imaging modalities for suspected malignant bone pain. For specific imaging indications, see also:
 - **Nuclear Medicine (NM) Imaging in Oncology (ONC-1.3)**
 - **Bone (Non-Vertebral) Metastases (ONC-31.5)**
 - **Spinal/Vertebral Metastases (ONC-31.6)**
 - **Carcinoma of Unknown Primary Site (ONC-31.7)**
- Delay PET/CT for at least 12 weeks after completion of radiation treatment, unless required sooner for imminent surgical resection.
- PET/CT may be considered prior to biopsy in order to determine a more favorable site for biopsy when a prior biopsy was nondiagnostic or a relatively inaccessible site is contemplated which would require invasive surgical intervention for biopsy attempt.
- PET/CT may be indicated if:
 - Conventional imaging (CT, MRI, or bone scan) reveals findings that are inconclusive or negative, with continued suspicion for recurrence
- **Unless specified in diagnosis-specific guideline section PET/CT Imaging is NOT medically necessary for:**

- Infection, inflammation, trauma, post-operative healing, granulomatous disease, rheumatological conditions
- Concomitantly with separate diagnostic CT studies
- Conclusive evidence of distant or diffuse metastatic disease on recent conventional imaging studies
- Metastatic disease in the central nervous system (CNS)
- Lesions less than 8 mm in size
- Follow up after localized therapy (i.e., radiofrequency ablation, embolization, stereotactic radiation, etc.)
- Rare malignancies, due to lack of available evidence regarding the diagnostic accuracy of PET in rare cancers
- Surveillance
 - Serial monitoring of individuals who are not currently receiving anti-tumor treatment or are receiving maintenance treatment
 - Serial monitoring of FDG avidity until resolution.
 - PET/CT avidity in a residual mass at the end of planned therapy is not an indication for PET/CT imaging during surveillance.
 - Residual mass that has not changed in size since the last conventional imaging does not justify PET imaging
- Please refer to general guidelines section **PET Imaging in Oncology (ONC-1.4)** and **PET Imaging in Pediatric Oncology (PEDONC-1.4)** for further guidance regarding PET. Those guidelines should be applied with regard to radiotracer coverage.
- Please refer to general guidelines in **Unlisted Procedure Codes in Oncology (ONC-1.5)** for unlisted procedures in pediatric oncology.

Clinical Trials

- Similar to investigational and experimental studies, clinical trial imaging requests will be considered to determine whether they meet these evidence-based guidelines.
- Imaging studies which are inconsistent with established clinical standards, or are requested for data collection and not used in direct clinical management are not medically necessary.

Health Equity Considerations

Health equity is the highest level of health for all individuals; health inequity is the avoidable difference in health status or distribution of health resources due to the social conditions in which individuals are born, grow, live, work, and age. Social determinants of health are the conditions in the environment that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality of life outcomes and risks. Examples include the following: safe housing, transportation, and neighborhoods; racism, discrimination, and violence;

education, job opportunities, and income; access to nutritious foods and physical activity opportunities; access to clean air and water; and language and literacy skills.

Age Considerations (PEDONC-1.1)

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- The majority of malignancies occurring in the pediatric population are different diagnoses than those occurring in the adult population.
- For those diseases which occur in both pediatric and adult populations, minor differences may exist in management between pediatric and adult medical oncologists due to the following:
 - Age of the individual
 - Comorbidities
 - Differences in disease natural history between children and adults

AGE APPROPRIATE GUIDELINES	
Age of Individual	Appropriate Imaging Guidelines
≥18 years old at initial diagnosis	• General Oncology Imaging Guidelines, except where directed otherwise by a specific guideline section
<18 years old at initial diagnosis	• Pediatric Oncology Imaging Guidelines, except where directed otherwise by a specific guideline section
15 to 39 years old at initial diagnosis (defined as Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) oncology individuals)	• When unique guidelines for a specific cancer type exist only in either Oncology or Pediatric Oncology, AYA individuals should be imaged according to the guideline section for their specific cancer type, regardless of the individual's age • When unique guidelines for a specific cancer type exist in both Oncology and Pediatric Oncology, AYA individuals should be imaged according to the age rule in the previous bullet

Appropriate Clinical Evaluations (PEDONC-1.2)

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- The majority of pediatric oncology imaging indications are listed in the diagnosis-specific guideline sections
 - Rare malignancies and other circumstances not specifically addressed elsewhere in the Pediatric Oncology guidelines, the following general principles apply:
 - Routine imaging of brain, spine, neck, chest, abdomen, pelvis, bones, or other body areas is not medically necessary in the absence of:
 - Localizing symptoms or
 - Abnormalities on plain radiography or ultrasound
- The overwhelming majority of pediatric oncology individuals treated in the United States will be enrolled on or treated according to recent Children's Oncology Group (COG) protocols
 - COG is a National Cancer Institute (NCI) supported clinical trials group
 - These imaging guidelines are generally consistent with evaluations recommended by COG protocols commonly used for direct individual care (whether formally enrolled on study or not)
 - Requests for exception to guidelines based on COG protocol should be accompanied by the COG road map or COG details in the medical record for case-by-case consideration.
 - For individuals enrolled in a COG study, imaging recommended by COG protocols is generally medically necessary unless the imaging is being performed solely to address a study objective and would not be indicated in usual clinical care.
 - Requests for exception to guidelines based on COG protocol should be accompanied by the COG road map or COG details in the medical record for case-by-case consideration.

Phases of Pediatric Oncology Imaging:

- Pediatric malignancies, in general, behave more aggressively than adult cancers, and the time from initial suspicion of cancer to specific therapy initiation can be measured in hours to days for most pediatric cancers
- It is recommended that children with pediatric solid tumors undergo CT evaluation of the chest prior to general anesthesia for biopsy or resection due to the risk of post-operative atelectasis mimicking pulmonary metastasis resulting in inaccurate staging and/or delay in therapy initiation

- Unlike adult cancers, in most pediatric cancers surveillance does not begin until all planned multi-modal therapy is completed
- Pediatric cancers where surgical resection is considered curative are listed in the diagnosis-specific guideline sections
- Certain tumor types do not require surveillance with advanced imaging as individual outcomes following relapse are not improved by surveillance imaging. See diagnosis-specific guideline sections for details
- Imaging may be indicated more frequently than recommended by guidelines with clinical documentation that the imaging results are likely to result in a treatment change for the individual, including a change from active treatment to surveillance

Phases of Oncology Imaging	Definition
Screening	• Imaging requested for individuals at increased risk for a particular cancer in the absence of known clinical signs or symptoms • Screening using advancing imaging is only supported for conditions listed in <u>Screening Imaging in Cancer Predisposition Syndromes (PEDONC-2)</u>
Suspected/Initial Staging	• All imaging studies requested from the time cancer is first clinically suspected until the initiation of specific treatment ◦ CT Chest prior to anesthesia for biopsy or resection of solid tumors and CTs of other involved body areas are generally indicated and should be performed concurrently ◦ Metastatic CNS imaging and nuclear medicine imaging are generally deferred until after a histologic diagnosis is made, unless otherwise indicated by diagnosis-specific guideline
Treatment Response	• Imaging performed during any type of active treatment (chemotherapy or other medications, radiation therapy, or surgery), including evaluation at the end of planned active treatment ◦ Unless otherwise stated in the diagnosis-specific guidelines, imaging for treatment response is medically necessary after every 2 cycles, which is usually ~6 weeks of therapy for solid tumors and usually ~8 to 12 weeks for CNS tumors

Phases of Oncology Imaging	Definition
Surveillance	- Imaging performed in individuals who are asymptomatic or have chronic stable symptoms and not receiving any active treatment, even if residual imaging abnormalities are present - PET imaging is not medically necessary for surveillance imaging unless specifically stated in elsewhere in the diagnosis-specific guideline sections
Recurrence	- All imaging studies completed at the time a recurrence or progression of a known cancer is strongly suspected or documented based on clinical signs or symptoms, laboratory findings, or results of basic imaging studies such as plain radiography or ultrasound - Following documented recurrence of childhood cancer, any studies recommended for initial staging of that cancer type in the diagnosis-specific imaging guideline section should be approved - During active treatment for recurrent pediatric cancer, conventional imaging evaluation (CT or MRI, should use the same modality for ongoing monitoring as much as possible) of previously involved areas is medically necessary according to the treatment response imaging in the diagnosis-specific guideline section - Always refer to the diagnosis specific guideline for PET indications in recurrence.

Radiation Treatment Planning In Pediatric Oncology

- Imaging performed in support of radiation therapy treatment planning should follow guidelines outlined in **Unlisted Procedure Codes in Oncology (ONC-1.5)**.

Cardiac Function Assessment in Pediatric Oncology During Active Treatment:

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
- Evaluation of cardiac function prior to cardiotoxic chemotherapy, and for monitoring while on active therapy or at end of therapy at the discretion of the treating pediatric oncologist based on: - Cumulative cardiotoxic therapy received to date - Individual's age and gender - Most recent echocardiogram results - New or worsening cardiac symptoms	Echocardiography (CPT[®] 93306, CPT[®] 93307, or CPT[®] 93308)
- For either of the following: - Echocardiography yielded a borderline shortening fraction (<30%) and additional left ventricular function data are necessary to make a chemotherapy decision OR - Echocardiography windowing is suboptimal due to body habitus or tumor location	Multi-gated acquisition (MUGA, CPT[®] 78472) blood pool nuclear medicine scanning

Background and Supporting Information

Immunosuppression During Pediatric Cancer Therapy and Imaging Ramifications:

- Individuals may be severely immunocompromised during active chemotherapy treatment and any conventional imaging request to evaluate for infectious complications during this time frame should be approved immediately
 - Imaging requests for infectious disease concerns for all individuals with absolute neutrophil count (ANC) <500 **or**
 - Inconclusive findings on chest x-ray or US at any ANC during active treatment should be approved as requested
 - Individuals may have therapy-induced hypogammaglobulinemia which requires supplemental intravenous immune globulin (IVIG) during maintenance therapy. These individuals receiving supplemental IVIG should be treated similarly to individuals with ANC <500 with regards to imaging for infectious disease

- Some individuals are treated with very intensive chemotherapy regimens (including autologous stem cell transplantation) and spend the majority of their chemotherapy treatment phase in the hospital. See: **Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation (ONC-29)**.
- Due to the high risk of invasive infections, frequent CT may be indicated to evaluate known sites of invasive fungal infection, and in general these should be approved as requested
 - Surveillance imaging of asymptomatic individuals to detect invasive fungal infection has not been shown to impact individual outcomes
 - Imaging requests are indicated when acute clinical decisions will be made based on the imaging

Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant (HSCT) in Pediatric Oncology:

- Transplantation of hematopoietic stem cells from bone marrow, peripheral blood, or cord blood is commonly used in the following clinical situations:
 - High-risk or recurrent leukemia (allogeneic)
 - Recurrent lymphoma (allogeneic or autologous)
 - Hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (allogeneic)
 - High-risk sickle cell disease (allogeneic)
 - High-risk neuroblastoma (autologous)
 - High-risk CNS tumors (autologous)
 - Recurrent Ewing sarcoma family of tumors (autologous, rarely allogeneic)
- Imaging considerations for HSCT should follow guidelines in: **Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation (ONC-29)**.

Modality General Considerations (PEDONC-1.3)

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- Plain radiography
 - Chest x-ray (CXR) can provide a prompt means to evaluate primary intrathoracic tumors and continues to be the initial imaging study recommended to detect complications, such as suspected infection, in symptomatic individuals undergoing treatment.
 - CXR continues to be the initial imaging study recommended for pulmonary surveillance for some pediatric cancers. See diagnosis-specific guideline sections for details.
 - Plain radiography continues to be the initial imaging study recommended for evaluation of lesions involving the appendicular skeleton, both during and after completion of treatment. See diagnosis-specific guideline sections for details.
 - Plain abdominal radiographs have largely been replaced by ultrasound, CT, or MRI.
- Ultrasound
 - Ultrasound is not widely used in pediatric oncology for staging but is frequently used for surveillance in individuals who have successfully treated (primarily abdominal or pelvic) tumors with little or no residual disease.
 - See diagnosis-specific guideline sections for details.
- CT
 - CT with contrast is the imaging study of choice in pediatric individuals with lymphomas or solid tumors of the neck, thorax, abdomen, and/or pelvis
 - If CT contrast use is contraindicated due to allergy or impaired renal function, either CT without contrast or MRI without and with contrast may be substituted at the discretion of the ordering physician
- MRI
 - MRI without and with contrast is the study of choice for CNS tumors and musculoskeletal tumors
 - If MRI contrast use is contraindicated due to allergy or impaired renal function, MRI without contrast may be substituted at the discretion of the ordering physician
 - Due to the length of time for image acquisition and the need for stillness, anesthesia is required for almost all infants and young children (age <7 years), as well as older children with delays in development or maturity. In this population, MRI imaging sessions should be planned with a goal of avoiding a short-interval

repeat anesthesia exposure due to insufficient information using the following considerations:

- MRI should generally be performed without and with contrast unless there is a specific contraindication to gadolinium use since the individual already has intravenous access for anesthesia
 - Evidence-based literature demonstrates the potential for gadolinium deposition in various organs including the brain, after the use of MRI contrast
 - The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has noted that there is currently no evidence to suggest that gadolinium retention in the brain is harmful and restricting gadolinium-based contrast agents (GBCAS) use is not warranted at this time
 - It has been recommended that GBCA use should be limited to circumstances in which additional information provided by the contrast agent is necessary and the necessity of repetitive MRIs with GBCAS should be assessed
 - If requesting clinicians indicate that a non-contrast study is being requested due to concerns regarding the use of gadolinium, the exam can be approved
- In some instances, to reduce time under anesthesia for MRI in pediatric individuals, surveillance or restaging studies may be requested with contrast only when it is determined that repeat non-contrast imaging does not add to an individual clinical case. These may be approved on a case-by-case basis.
- If multiple body areas are supported by these guidelines for the clinical condition being evaluated, MRI of all necessary body areas should be obtained concurrently in the same anesthesia session
- Nuclear medicine
 - General PET imaging consideration can be found in **PET Imaging in Pediatric Oncology (PEDONC-1.4)**.
 - Bone scan is frequently used for evaluation of bone metastases in pediatric oncology during initial treatment, treatment response, and surveillance
 - CPT[®] 78315 has no specific indications for evaluation of malignant disease
 - ¹²³I-metaiodobenzylguanidine (MIBG) scintigraphy is the preferred metabolic imaging for neuroblastoma and is positive in 90% to 95% of neuroblastomas. MIBG is also used for evaluation of pheochromocytomas, paragangliomas, ganglioneuromas, and ganglioneuroblastomas, PET/CT indications are provided in the relevant sections.

Study Type	Coding
Bone scan	- ANY of the following codes can be approved: - CPT[®] 78300 - CPT[®] 78305 - CPT[®] 78306 - CPT[®] 78803, 78830, or 78832 - May be approved alone or in combination with: - CPT[®] 78305 - CPT[®] 78306
¹²³ I- metaiodobenzylguanidine (MIBG) scintigraphy	- ANY one of the following codes can be approved: - CPT[®] 78801 - CPT[®] 78802 - CPT[®] 78804 - ANY one of the following codes may also be approved, individual or in combination with CPT[®] 78801, 78802, or 78804: - CPT[®] 78803 - CPT[®] 78830 - CPT[®] 78831 - CPT[®] 78832 - CPT[®] 78800 may be approved for KNOWN neuroblastoma when only a single site follow up is desired but is not sufficient for the initial workup of suspected disease
Octreotide scan	Same coding as MIBG
Gallium scan	Same coding as MIBG

PET Imaging in Pediatric Oncology (PEDONC-1.4)

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Throughout these guidelines, unless otherwise specified, the term “PET” refers specifically to ¹⁸F-FDG-PET imaging and also applies to PET/CT fusion studies.

- PET imaging in pediatric oncology should use PET/CT fusion imaging (CPT[®] 78815 or CPT[®] 78816)
- The decision whether to use skull base to mid-femur (“eyes to thighs”) procedure code for PET (CPT[®] 78815) or whole-body PET (CPT[®] 78816) is addressed in the diagnosis-specific guideline sections.
- PET imaging in oncology should use PET/CT fusion imaging (CPT[®] 78815 or CPT[®] 78816)
- PET/MRI is generally not supported for a vast majority of oncologic conditions due to lack of standardization in imaging technique and interpretation. However, it is medically necessary in select circumstances when all of the following criteria are met:
 - The individual meets condition-specific guidelines for PET/MRI OR
 - The individual meets ALL of the following:
 - The individual meets guideline criteria for PET/CT, AND
 - PET/CT is not available at the treating institution, AND
 - The provider requests PET/MRI in lieu of PET/CT
 - When the above criteria are met, PET/MRI is medically necessary using the code combination of PET Whole-Body (CPT[®] 78813) and MRI Unlisted (CPT[®] 76498). All other methods of reporting PET/MRI are inappropriate.
 - When clinically appropriate, diagnostic MRI codes may be medically necessary at the same time as the PET/MRI code combination.
- Unbundling PET/CT imaging into separate PET (such as CPT[®] 78812 or CPT[®] 78813) and diagnostic CT codes is otherwise not medically necessary.
- PET imaging is not reliable for the detection of anatomic lesions smaller than 8 mm in size.
- Delay PET/CT for at least 12 weeks after completion of radiation treatment, unless required sooner for imminent surgical resection.
- PET imaging using isotopes other than ¹⁸F-FDG, ⁶⁸Ga-DOTATATE, or ⁶⁸Ga-DOTATOC is considered not medically necessary at this time.
- PET has not been shown to be diagnostically useful in all forms of childhood cancer. PET is medically necessary for pediatric malignancies with significant published

evidence regarding its diagnostic accuracy and importance in accurately directing individual care decisions. See diagnosis-specific guideline sections for details.

- PET imaging is not specific to cancer and has a high rate of false positivity. Inflammation, infection (especially granulomatous), trauma, and post-operative healing may show high levels of FDG uptake and be false-positive for malignant lesions.
- PET for rare malignancies not specifically addressed by these guidelines is generally not medically necessary due to lack of available evidence regarding diagnostic accuracy of PET in the majority of rare cancers. Conventional imaging studies should be used for initial staging and treatment response for these diagnoses.
- PET is medically necessary if **all** of the following apply:
 - Conventional imaging (CT, MRI, US, plain film) reveals findings that are equivocal or suspicious
 - No other specific metabolic imaging (MIBG, octreotide, technetium, etc.) is appropriate for the cancer type
 - The submitted clinical information describes a specific decision regarding the individual's care that will be made based on the PET results
- PET imaging for surveillance imaging **only** when specifically stated elsewhere in the diagnosis-specific guideline sections
- Unless otherwise specified for a specific cancer type, once PET has been documented to be negative for a given individual's cancer or all PET-avid disease has been surgically resected, PET is not medically necessary for continued disease monitoring or surveillance unless **one** of the following applies:
 - Conventional imaging (CT, MRI, US, plain film) reveals findings that are inconclusive or suspicious for recurrence
 - Residual mass that has not changed in size since the last conventional imaging does **not** justify PET imaging
 - PET avidity in a residual mass at the end of planned therapy is **not** an indication for PET imaging during surveillance.
 - Very rare circumstances where tumor markers or obvious clinical symptoms show strong evidence suggesting recurrence and PET would replace conventional imaging modalities
 - The individual is undergoing salvage treatment for a recurrent solid tumor with residual measurable disease on conventional imaging and confirmed repeat negative PET imaging will allow the individual to transition from active treatment to surveillance

Diagnostic Radiation Exposure in Pediatric Oncology (PEDONC-1.5)

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- Young children are presumed to be at increased risk for malignancy from diagnostic radiation exposure, most commonly from CT and nuclear medicine imaging. They are more sensitive to radiation than adults and generally live longer after receiving radiation doses from medical procedures, resulting in a larger number of years during which to manifest a cancer.
- Because of this presumed increased risk in young children, requests to substitute MRI without and with contrast for CT with contrast to avoid radiation exposure are medically necessary if ALL of the following criteria apply:
 - The individual is presently a young child and the ordering physician has documented the reason for MRI, rather than CT, is to avoid radiation exposure.
 - The disease-specific guidelines do not list CT as superior to MRI for the current disease and time point, meaning the MRI will provide equivalent or superior information relative to CT.
 - The request is for a body area other than Chest as MRI is substantially inferior to CT for detection of small pulmonary metastases.
- The guidelines listed in this section for certain specific indications are not intended to be all-inclusive; clinical judgment remains paramount and variance from these guidelines may be appropriate and warranted for specific clinical situations.

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Pediatric and Special Populations Oncology Imaging Guidelines (For Ohio Only):

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UnitedHealthcare Community Plan Coverage Determination Guideline

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Screening Imaging in Cancer Predisposition Syndromes (PEDONC-2)

Guideline

Screening Imaging in Cancer Predisposition Syndromes – General Considerations (PEDONC-2.1)

Li-Fraumeni Syndrome (LFS) (PEDONC-2.2)

Neurofibromatosis 1 and 2 (NF1 and NF2) (PEDONC-2.3)

Beckwith-Wiedemann Syndrome (BWS) (PEDONC-2.4)

Denys-Drash Syndrome (DDS) (PEDONC-2.5)

Wilms Tumor-Aniridia-Growth Retardation (WAGR) (PEDONC-2.6)

Familial Adenomatous Polyposis (FAP) and Related Conditions (PEDONC-2.7)

Multiple Endocrine Neoplasias (MEN) (PEDONC-2.8)

Tuberous Sclerosis Complex (TSC) (PEDONC-2.9)

Von Hippel-Lindau Syndrome (VHL) (PEDONC-2.10)

Rhabdoid Tumor Predisposition Syndrome (PEDONC-2.11)

Familial Retinoblastoma Syndrome (PEDONC-2.12)

Hereditary Paraganglioma-Pheochromocytoma (HPP) Syndromes (PEDONC-2.13)

Costello Syndrome (PEDONC-2.14)

Constitutional Mismatch Repair Deficiency (CMMRD or Turcot Syndrome) (PEDONC-2.15)

Hereditary Leiomyomatosis and Renal Cell Cancer (HLRCC) (PEDONC-2.16)

Other Renal Cell Cancer Predisposition Syndromes (PEDONC-2.17)

Infantile Myofibromatosis (PEDONC-2.18)

Bloom Syndrome (PEDONC-2.19)

References (PEDONC-2)

Screening Imaging in Cancer Predisposition Syndromes – General Considerations (PEDONC-2.1)

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- This section is intended to give guidance for screening imaging prior to diagnosis with a specific malignancy. Once an individual with a cancer predisposition syndrome has been diagnosed with a malignant disease, future imaging decisions should be guided by the appropriate disease-specific guidelines except as explicitly stated elsewhere in this section.
- This section's guidelines are limited to cancer predisposition syndromes with screening imaging considerations. Syndromes requiring only clinical or laboratory screening are not discussed here.
- In general, a relevant detailed history and physical examination and appropriate laboratory studies should be performed prior to considering advanced imaging, unless the individual is undergoing guideline-supported scheduled screening evaluation identified in this section.
- Where MRI is indicated in these guidelines, CT may be approved only if MRI is contraindicated, given the risk of radiation exposure in these syndromes.
- Many of these cancer predisposition syndromes also affect adults as survival continues to improve for these individuals.
 - Adults with syndromes covered in this section may follow these imaging guidelines except where contradicted by specific statements in the general imaging guidelines.
- Documentation of genetic or molecular confirmation of the appropriate syndrome with increased cancer risk is preferred for any individual to qualify for screening imaging. There are a number of complex ethical, social, and financial issues involved in the decision to complete genetic testing in a pediatric individual.
 - From the 2013 AAP Policy Statement, "Predictive genetic testing for adult-onset conditions generally should be deferred unless an intervention initiated in childhood may reduce morbidity or mortality." **Imaging surveillance is one such intervention and should not be performed without justifiable cause.**
 - Genetic testing should be performed in conjunction with genetic counseling for appropriate communication of risks identified by testing.
 - When genetic testing is not possible, formal diagnosis after evaluation by a physician with significant training and/or experience in cancer predisposition

syndromes (most commonly a geneticist or oncologist) is generally sufficient to confirm eligibility for screening imaging.

- Due to the length of time for image acquisition and the need for stillness, anesthesia is required for almost all infants and young children (age < 7 years), as well as older children with delays in development or maturity. In this individual population, MRI imaging sessions should be planned with a goal of avoiding a short-interval repeat anesthesia exposure due to insufficient information using the following considerations:
 - MRI should always be performed without and with contrast unless there is a specific contraindication to gadolinium use since the individual already has intravenous access for anesthesia.
 - Evidence-based literature demonstrates the potential for gadolinium deposition in various organs including the brain, after the use of MRI contrast.
 - The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has noted that there is currently no evidence to suggest that gadolinium retention in the brain is harmful and restricting gadolinium-based contrast agents (GBCAs) use is not warranted at this time. It has been recommended that GBCA use should be limited to circumstances in which additional information provided by the contrast agent is necessary and the necessity of repetitive MRIs with GBCAs should be assessed.
 - If requesting clinicians indicate that a non-contrast study is being requested due to concerns regarding the use of gadolinium, the exam can be approved.
 - In some instances, to reduce time under anesthesia for MRI in pediatric individuals, surveillance or restaging studies may be requested with contrast only when it is determined that repeat non-contrast imaging does not add to an individual clinical case. These may be approved on a case-by-case basis.
 - If multiple body areas are supported by these guidelines for the clinical condition being evaluated, MRI of all necessary body areas should be obtained concurrently in the same anesthesia session

Li-Fraumeni Syndrome (LFS) (PEDONC-2.2)

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The following imaging studies should be considered medically necessary in individuals with LFS:

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
All individuals	• BOTH of the following, annually: ◦ MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) ◦ Whole-body MRI (WBMRI, CPT[®] 76498) ▪ CPT[®] 76498 is the only code for whole-body MRI at this time. • Every 3 months from birth: ◦ Abdominal (CPT[®] 76700) and pelvic (CPT[®] 76856) ultrasound • Beginning at age 20: ◦ Annual Breast MRI (CPT[®] 77049), alternating every 6 months with breast ultrasound, in addition to the previously noted annual MRI studies.
Documented signs or symptoms suggestive of possible malignancy	• Targeted MRI without and with contrast of the involved body area(s)

Background and Supporting Information

- LFS - syndrome inherited in an autosomal dominant manner (50% risk to offspring) associated with germline mutations in *TP53* resulted in an increased susceptibility to a variety of cancers.
 - Eighty percent of individuals will have germline *TP53* mutation:
 - Tumor-specific *TP53* mutations are much more common than germline *TP53* mutations and are not associated with an increased risk for subsequent cancers.
 - If *TP53*-negative, formal diagnosis of LFS should be assigned by a physician with significant training and/or experience in LFS (most commonly a geneticist or oncologist) based on specified clinical criteria prior to beginning a screening imaging program.

- *TP53* mutations may be present in 50% to 80% of pediatric adrenocortical carcinoma, 10% of pediatric rhabdomyosarcoma, and 10% of pediatric osteosarcoma.
- Individuals with LFS have an increased sensitivity to ionizing radiation, so screening strategies resulting in significant radiation exposure are not appropriate (CT and nuclear medicine).
- When a specific malignancy is suspected, the individual should be imaged according to the imaging guideline specific to the suspected cancer type.
- Annual complete detailed physical examinations, complete blood counts, and urinalyses form the backbone of LFS cancer screening.

Neurofibromatosis 1 and 2 (NF1 and NF2) (PEDONC-2.3)

ONCP.SC.0002.3.A

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The following imaging studies should be considered medically necessary in individuals with NF1:

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
- Clarification of the diagnosis of NF1 if evaluation by a physician with significant training and/or experience in neurofibromatosis is inconclusive - Most commonly a neurologist, geneticist, ophthalmologist, or oncologist	One-time MRI Brain (CPT[®] 70553) and Orbits (CPT[®] 70543) without and with contrast
New or worsening neurological or visual symptoms	MRI Brain (CPT[®] 70553) and Orbits (CPT[®] 70543) without and with contrast
- Clinical symptoms suggestive of change in a known plexiform neurofibroma - Examples include: pain, rapid growth, and neurologic dysfunction	MRI without and with contrast
- Clinical symptoms concerning for malignant transformation of a known plexiform neurofibroma, and ALL of the following are met: - Recent MRI is inconclusive regarding transformation or progression - Negative PET will result in a decision to avoid biopsy in a difficult or morbid location	PET/CT (CPT[®] 78815 or 78816)
Baseline tumor burden at age 16 or older (one-time imaging)	WBMBRI (CPT[®] 76498)

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
New soft tissue mass(es)	See: Soft tissue mass information in <u>Soft Tissue Mass and Morton's Neuroma (MS 10.1)</u> in the Musculoskeletal Imaging Guidelines or <u>Soft Tissue and Bone Masses – General Considerations (PEDMS 3.1)</u> in the Pediatric Musculoskeletal Imaging Guidelines depending on the individual's age at the time the mass is discovered. Plain x-ray or ultrasound is not required prior to advanced imaging in these individuals.
New bone mass(es)	See: <u>Bone Tumors - General Considerations (PEDONC-9.1)</u>
Documented optic pathway gliomas	See: <u>Intracranial Low Grade Gliomas (PEDONC-4.2)</u>
Known plexiform neurofibromas	- MRI without and with contrast of a known body area containing a neurofibroma is indicated for any of the following: - Every 3 months for treatment response in individuals receiving active treatment - New or worsening clinical symptoms suggesting progression - Preoperative planning
Biopsy-proven MPNST in individuals with known NF-1 or NF-2	- For adult individuals, see: <u>ONC-12 Sarcomas-bone, soft tissue and GIST</u> - For pediatric individuals, see: <u>Non-Rhabdomyosarcoma Soft Tissue Sarcomas (NRSTS) (PEDONC-8.3)</u>

Background and Supporting Information

NF1:

- Common syndrome inherited in an autosomal dominant manner (50% risk to offspring) affecting 1 in 2500 people. The diagnosis is commonly made based on

established clinical criteria including café-au-lait spots, Lisch nodules of the iris, axillary freckling, family history, and the presence of NF-associated tumors.

- Genetic testing is encouraged for children with possible NF1 and no family history prior to assigning a diagnosis, but will not identify a mutation for all individuals with NF1.
- The majority of tumors are benign in nature, but malignant degeneration can occur.
- NF1-affected persons have increased sensitivity to ionizing radiation, so CT and nuclear medicine imaging are not appropriate screening or surveillance studies for these individuals.
- CT and/or nuclear medicine studies may be indicated for acute clinical situations and should be judged on a case-by-case basis.
- Annual ophthalmology evaluation is strongly recommended beginning at the time of diagnosis of NF1 to evaluate for optic pathway abnormalities:
 - Screening MRIs Brain (CPT[®] 70553) and Orbits (CPT[®] 70543) for asymptomatic individuals are **not** generally recommended due to the ~60% rate of unidentified bright objects (UBOs, T2-weighted signal abnormalities) which mostly disappear by age 30
 - Routine follow up imaging of UBOs is not warranted in the absence of acute symptoms suggesting new or worsening intracranial disease
- Individuals with NF1 are at increased risk for plexiform neurofibromas (PN) and malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumors (MPNST— a high grade sarcoma)
 - Screening imaging of asymptomatic individuals for these tumors is not supported by evidence. PET imaging is not supported for PN surveillance in asymptomatic individuals at this time as the positive predictive value is only 60% to 65% even in symptomatic individuals.
- Although PET imaging has a positive predictive value of only 61% to 63% in NF1 with suspected transformation to MPNST, the negative predictive value is high (96% to 99%)
 - Considerations for PET/CT coding and indications/coding for PET/MRI are found in **PET Imaging in Pediatric Oncology (PEDONC-1.4)**
 - Inconclusive PET findings should lead to biopsy of the concerning lesion.
 - Repeat PET studies are not indicated due to the poor positive predictive value in this setting.
- 2017 AACR recommendations support a single baseline Whole-Body MRI to assess tumor burden in late adolescence or young adulthood. Further imaging should be based on focused MRI for symptomatic changes or pre-operative planning, and further surveillance WBMRI are not supported.

The following imaging studies should be considered medically necessary in individuals with NF2:

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
All individuals, beginning at age 10 years	Annual MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553)
All individuals without a history of spinal tumors, beginning at age 10 years	MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158) every 3 years
All individuals with a history of spinal tumors	Annual MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158)
Clinical symptoms of intracranial mass or vestibular disease	MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553)
- Any of the following: - Clinical symptoms suggestive of new or progressive spinal or paraspinal tumors, including uncomplicated back pain or radiculopathy - Recent diagnosis with a meningioma or vestibular schwannoma	MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158)
Surveillance for progression of unresected tumors in individuals with known vestibular schwannoma	Annual MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553)
- Known vestibular schwannomas and any of the following: - New or worsening clinical symptoms including hearing loss - Preoperative planning	MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553)
Known meningioma	See: Meningiomas (ONC-2.8) in the Oncology Imaging Guidelines
Known ependymoma	See: Ependymal Tumors (Ependymoma) (PEDONC-4.8)

Background and Supporting Information

NF2:

- NF2 is substantially less common than NF1. It is inherited in an autosomal dominant manner (50% risk to offspring) affecting ~1 in 25000 people. NF2 is associated with increased risk for meningiomas (50% of affected individuals), vestibular schwannomas, and spinal tumors (75% of affected individuals).

Beckwith-Wiedemann Syndrome (BWS) (PEDONC-2.4)

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The following imaging studies should be considered medically necessary in individuals with BWS:

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
All individuals, from birth to the 8th birthday	Abdominal ultrasound (CPT[®] 76700) every 3 months
Purely cystic adrenal mass found on screening ultrasound	Continue screening ultrasound (CPT[®] 76700 or 76705) every 3 months without additional imaging (i.e., advanced imaging is not medically necessary for a purely cystic adrenal mass)
- Solid or mixed adrenal mass found on screening ultrasound AND: - Individual age 0 months to 5 months, and - Mass 0 cm to 3 cm in diameter	MIBG imaging (See: PEDONC-1.3 for coding) and either CT or MRI Abdomen (contrast as requested)
- Solid or mixed adrenal mass found on screening ultrasound AND: - Individual age 0 to 5 months, and - Mass >3 cm in diameter	MIBG imaging (See: PEDONC-1.3 for coding) and MRI Abdomen (contrast as requested)
- Solid or mixed adrenal masses on screening ultrasound AND: - Individual age 6 months or greater	- MIBG imaging (See: PEDONC-1.3 for coding) prior to biopsy or resection - If no evidence of malignancy on biopsy or resection, resume screening abdominal ultrasound every 3 months
- Solid or mixed adrenal masses on screening ultrasound AND: - No evidence of malignancy based on MIBG, CT or MRI, Urine HVA/VMA, and serum ACTH	Repeat abdominal ultrasound (CPT[®] 76700 or 76705) every 6 weeks for 2 years

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
• Known renal tumors	• See: <u>Pediatric Renal Tumors (PEDONC-7)</u>
• Known hepatoblastoma	• See: <u>Hepatoblastoma (PEDONC-11.2)</u>
• Known neuroblastoma	• See: <u>Neuroblastoma (PEDONC-6)</u>
• Known adrenocortical carcinoma	• See: <u>Pediatric Adrenocortical Carcinoma (PEDONC-14)</u>
• Known pheochromocytoma	• See: <u>Neuroendocrine Cancers and Adrenal Tumors (ONC-15)</u> in the Oncology Imaging Guidelines

Background and Supporting Information

- Inherited syndrome characterized by macroglossia, hemihypertrophy, macrosomia, organomegaly, and neonatal hypoglycemia. Individuals with isolated hemihypertrophy are also imaged according to this guideline.
- Caused by mutation at chromosome 11p15, affected children are predisposed to Wilms tumor, hepatoblastoma, rhabdomyosarcoma, and adrenal tumors.

Denys-Drash Syndrome (DDS) (PEDONC-2.5)

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The following imaging studies should be considered appropriate in individuals with DDS:

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
All individuals, from birth to the 8th birthday	Abdominal ultrasound (CPT[®] 76700) every 3 months
Known renal tumors	See: <u>Pediatric Renal Tumors (PEDONC-7)</u>

Background and Supporting Information

- Characterized by pseudohermaphroditism, early renal failure, and >90% risk of Wilms tumor development in each kidney. Associated with mutations at 11p13, risk of renal failure after detection of symptomatic Wilms tumor is 62%, so early detection may allow for renal-sparing surgical approaches.

Wilms Tumor-Aniridia-Growth Retardation (WAGR) (PEDONC-2.6)

ONCP.SC.0002.6.A

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The following imaging studies should be considered medically necessary in individuals with WAGR:

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
All individuals, from birth to the 8th birthday	Abdominal ultrasound (CPT[®] 76700) every 3 months
Known renal tumors	See: <u>Pediatric Renal Tumors (PEDONC-7)</u>

Background and Supporting Information

- Named for the components of the disorder, it is associated with mutations at 11p13. As the name suggests, individuals are predisposed to Wilms tumor, with 57% of individuals in one cohort developing Wilms tumor. Risk of renal failure after detection of symptomatic Wilms tumor is 38%, so early detection may allow for renal-sparing surgical approaches.

Familial Adenomatous Polyposis (FAP) and Related Conditions (PEDONC-2.7)

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- Individuals with Lynch, Gardner, and Turcot syndromes should also be imaged according to these guidelines.

The following imaging studies should be considered medically necessary in individuals with FAP and related conditions:

- For colonoscopy and endoscopy guidance for those with FAP and related conditions, See: *EGD-1.16*, *CAPEND-5*, or *COLON-17: Genetic Syndromes* for the endoscopic management of polyposis syndromes.

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
All individuals, from birth to the 6th birthday	Abdominal ultrasound (CPT[®] 76700) every 3 months
All individuals, beginning at age 12 years	Annual thyroid ultrasound (CPT[®] 76536)
All individuals, beginning at age 30 years	Annual pelvic ultrasound (CPT[®] 76856)
Family history of desmoid tumors	Abdominal ultrasound (CPT[®] 76700) annually for life after age 6
- Individuals with Spigelman Stage III or IV or if duodenectomy is being planned - See: <i>Genetic Syndromes (EGD-1.16)</i> for additional information regarding Spigelman staging.	MR Enterography (MRI Abdomen without and with contrast, CPT[®] 74183 and MRI Pelvis without and with contrast, CPT[®] 72197)
Known colorectal tumors	See: Colorectal Cancer (ONC-16) in the Oncology Imaging Guidelines
Known desmoid tumors	See: Sarcomas – Bone, Soft Tissue, and GIST (ONC-12)

Background and Supporting Information

- Inherited in an autosomal dominant manner (50% risk to offspring), it is also known as Adenomatous Polyposis Coli (APC). It is associated with the development of thousands of colonic polyps by age 20 and >90% risk of colorectal carcinoma. Prophylactic total colectomy is recommended by age 20 for most individuals. FAP is also associated with hepatoblastoma, tumors of the pancreas and small bowel, medulloblastoma, and thyroid cancer.

Multiple Endocrine Neoplasias (MEN) (PEDONC-2.8)

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The following imaging studies should be considered medically necessary in individuals with MEN1:

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
All individuals, beginning at age 5 years	- Annual MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) - Annual MRI Abdomen without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74183), CT Abdomen with contrast (CPT[®] 74160), or ultrasound (CPT[®] 76700) - Annual Octreotide study (see: PEDONC-1.3 for coding)
All individuals, beginning at age 15 years	Annual MRI Chest without and with contrast (CPT[®] 71552) or CT Chest with contrast (CPT[®] 71260)
Known thyroid cancer	See: Thyroid Cancer (ONC-6) in the Oncology Imaging Guidelines
Known pheochromocytoma	See: Neuroendocrine Cancers and Adrenal Tumors (ONC-15) in the Oncology Imaging Guidelines

The following imaging studies should be considered medically necessary in individuals with MEN2a and MEN2b:

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
All individuals, beginning at age 5 years	MRI Abdomen without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74183) every 3 years
- One of the following: - Elevated catecholamines - Inconclusive adrenal mass on MRI	- ONE of the following: - Octreotide study (see: PEDONC-1.3 for coding) - Adrenal Nuclear Imaging (CPT[®] 78075)

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Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Known pheochromocytoma	See: <u>Neuroendocrine Cancers and Adrenal Tumors (ONC-15)</u>

Background and Supporting Information

- Inherited in an autosomal dominant manner (50% risk to offspring)
- MEN1 is characterized by parathyroid, pancreatic islet cell, and pituitary gland tumors (3 P's), as well as carcinoid tumors in the chest and abdomen, and 28% of individuals will develop at least one tumor by age 15.
- MEN2a is characterized by medullary thyroid carcinoma, parathyroid adenomas, and pheochromocytomas.
- MEN2b is characterized by ganglioneuromas of the GI tract and skeletal abnormalities presenting in infancy.
- Recommended cancer screening includes:
 - Individuals with MEN2a and MEN2b receive annual measurement of catecholamines for pheochromocytoma screening

Tuberous Sclerosis Complex (TSC) (PEDONC-2.9)

ONCP.SC.0002.9.A

v2.0.2026

- Abdominal MRI (CPT[®] 74183) is medically necessary for women of childbearing age planning pregnancy.

The following imaging studies should be considered medically necessary in individuals with TSC:

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
All individuals, at the time of suspected diagnosis until age 25 years	Annual Brain MRI without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553)
All individuals at diagnosis	Single baseline MRI Abdomen without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74183)
If no renal lesions seen on baseline MRI Abdomen	- From diagnosis through age 11: - Annual Renal US (CPT[®] 76770) - Age 12 (or 10 years earlier than the youngest family member with renal cell carcinoma, whichever comes earlier): - MRI Abdomen without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74183) annually in lieu of ultrasound
For documented renal lesions on baseline MRI Abdomen or any ultrasound	MRI Abdomen without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74183) annually
All individuals, beginning at age 18 years	CT Chest without contrast (CPT[®] 71250) every 5 years
All individuals, for cardiac screening or follow up of known cardiac disease	See: Initial Transthoracic Echocardiography (TTE) Indications (PEDCD-8.2) and Repeat Transthoracic Echocardiography Indications (PEDCD-8.3) in the Pediatric Cardiology Imaging Guidelines
Individuals with documented abnormalities on baseline CT Chest	Additional CT Chest without contrast or with contrast (CPT[®] 71250 or 71260) every 1 year

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Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
- Any of the following: - New pulmonary symptoms - Worsening pulmonary function testing	CT Chest without contrast (CPT® 71250)
Known SEGA tumors	See: <u>Intracranial Low Grade Gliomas (LGG) (PEDONC-4.2)</u>
Known renal cell carcinoma	See: <u>Pediatric Renal Cell Carcinoma (RCC) (PEDONC-7.4)</u>

Background and Supporting Information

- Inherited in an autosomal dominant manner (50% risk to offspring), affecting ~1 in 6000 individuals, it is associated with benign tumors, hypopigmented skin macules (ash leaf spots), developmental delay, and epilepsy.
- Malignancies associated with this syndrome include:
 - Subependymal giant cell astrocytomas (SEGA tumors)
 - Historically, early surgery was important to reduce morbidity related to these tumors
 - More recently, everolimus has been successfully used to treat these tumors without surgery, and early detection remains an important feature for success
 - Renal cell carcinoma
 - Cardiac rhabdomyosarcoma
 - Pulmonary lymphangioleiomyomatosis
- Recommended cancer screening includes:
 - Ophthalmologic and dermatologic evaluation annually

Von Hippel-Lindau Syndrome (VHL) (PEDONC-2.10)

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The following imaging studies are considered medically necessary in individuals with VHL:

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
All individuals, beginning at age 11 years	MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT® 70553) and MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT® 72156, Thoracic-CPT® 72157, and Lumbar-CPT® 72158) every 2 years
Individuals with frequent ear infections, prior to age 8	One-time MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT® 70553)
All individuals, beginning at age 5 years	Annual Abdominal US (CPT® 76700)
All individuals, beginning at age 15 years	MRI Abdomen without and with contrast (CPT® 74183) every 2 years
- Suspected pheochromocytoma as indicated by ONE of the following: - Elevated catecholamines - Inconclusive adrenal mass on MRI	Octreotide study (CPT® 78800, CPT® 78801, CPT® 78802, CPT® 78803, or CPT® 78804) or Adrenal Nuclear imaging study or Adrenal Nuclear imaging (CPT® 78075) or Dotatate PET (CPT® 78815 or CPT® 78816)
Individuals with known hemangioblastoma anywhere in the body (based on imaging) that has not been resected	- Both of the following, every 1 year: - MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT® 70553) - MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT® 72156, Thoracic-CPT® 72157, and Lumbar-CPT® 72158)

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Known hemangioblastoma that has not been resected and new or worsening symptoms	- MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) - MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, and Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158)
Known (based on imaging) CNS hemangioblastoma	See: <u>Intracranial Low Grade Gliomas (LGG) (PEDONC-4.2)</u>
Known renal cell carcinoma	See: <u>Pediatric Renal Cell Carcinoma (RCC) (PEDONC-7.4)</u>
Known pheochromocytoma or other neuroendocrine tumor	See: <u>Neuroendocrine Cancers And Adrenal Tumors (ONC-15)</u> in the Oncology Imaging Guidelines
New abnormality is detected on MRI brain	- A repeat MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) should be done in 6 months. - If stable, imaging should return to every 2 years starting 2 years from the prior study
New abnormality is found in the pancreas on a screening MRI abdomen	Repeat MRI Abdomen without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74183) in 6 months then annually from initial scan to observe for development of pNET

Background and Supporting Information

- Inherited in an autosomal dominant manner (50% risk to offspring), it is associated with CNS hemangioblastomas, retinal angiomas, endolymphatic sac tumors (ELST), gastrointestinal stromal tumor (GIST), renal cell carcinoma (RCC), and pheochromocytomas and other neuroendocrine tumors (NETs). Pediatric individuals are at risk of developing hemangioblastomas and pheochromocytomas that can remain clinically occult until symptoms become severe. Historically, substantial mortality was attributable to RCC, pancreatic NET, and CNS hemangioblastoma.
- Recommended cancer screening includes:
 - Annual ophthalmologic evaluation beginning at birth
 - Annual measurement of catecholamines beginning at age 2
 - Audiology assessment every 2 years beginning at age 5

Rhabdoid Tumor Predisposition Syndrome (PEDONC-2.11)

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The following imaging studies should be considered medically necessary in individuals with Rhabdoid Tumor Predisposition Syndrome:

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
All individuals, at diagnosis, as early as birth if requested	Whole-body MRI (WBMRI) (CPT[®] 76498)
All individuals, from birth to 6 months of age	- ALL of the following, monthly: - US Head (CPT[®] 76506) - US Abdomen (CPT[®] 76700) - US Pelvis (CPT[®] 76856) - US Neck (CPT[®] 76536) - MRI with and without contrast of areas of concern found on baseline WBMRI
All individuals, from age 7 months to 5 years	- ALL of the following, every 3 months: - US Abdomen (CPT[®] 76700) - US Pelvis (CPT[®] 76856) - US Neck (CPT[®] 76536) - MRI Brain (CPT[®] 70553) - MRI Spine (CPT[®] 72156, CPT[®] 72157, and CPT[®] 72158) without and with contrast - MRI with and without contrast of areas of concern found on baseline WBMRI
All individuals, after age 5 years	Annual WBMRI (CPT[®] 76498)
Clinical symptoms or WBMRI findings suggesting malignancy	Targeted advanced imaging of the suspected disease site (CT with or without contrast, or MRI without and with contrast)

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Inconclusive findings on ultrasound	- MRI with and without contrast of the inconclusive US site - MRI is then medically necessary in place of ultrasound for remainder of planned screening

Background and Supporting Information

- Inherited in an autosomal dominant manner (50% risk to offspring), it is associated with malignant rhabdoid tumors of the kidney and extrarenal locations, and atypical teratoid/rhabdoid tumors (ATRT) of the CNS. It is caused by a germline mutation in *INI1* or *SMARCB1*, and is associated with a more variable prognosis than de novo rhabdoid tumors.

Familial Retinoblastoma Syndrome (PEDONC-2.12)

ONCP.SC.0002.12.A

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- Regular physical and ophthalmologic evaluations under anesthesia (EUA) are the hallmark of surveillance strategies for these individuals, and asymptomatic screening imaging does not have a defined role at this time.

The following imaging studies should be considered medically necessary in individuals with Familial Retinoblastoma Syndrome:

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Individuals with retinomas (premalignant retinal lesions)	Annual MRI Orbits (CPT® 70543)
- Either of the following: - Inconclusive EUA findings - New symptoms	- US Orbits (CPT® 76512, 76510, or 76511) or MRI Orbits (CPT® 70543) - These studies should be used if at all possible in lieu of CT or nuclear imaging to avoid radiation exposure

Background and Supporting Information

- This syndrome is inherited in an autosomal dominant manner (50% risk to offspring). As the name suggests, it is associated with retinoblastoma, as well as osteosarcoma, pediatric melanoma, and a significantly increased risk for radiation-related malignancies.

Hereditary Paraganglioma-Pheochromocytoma (HPP) Syndromes (PEDONC-2.13)

ONCP.SC.0002.13.A

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The following imaging studies should be considered medically necessary in individuals with HPP Syndromes:

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
All individuals with SDHx (SDHA, SDHB, SDHC, SDHD), MAX, TMEM127 mutations, beginning at age 6	- Every 2 years, ONE of the following sets of imaging: - Whole-body MRI (CPT[®] 76498) - CPT[®] 76498 is the only code for whole-body MRI at this time OR - MRI Neck without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70543), MRI Chest without and with contrast (CPT[®] 71552), MRI Abdomen without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74183), and MRI Pelvis without and with contrast (CPT[®] 72197) - If MRI cannot be performed: CT Neck with contrast (CPT[®] 70491), CT Chest with contrast (CPT[®] 71260), and CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177) - MRI Neck imaging should include skull base, thus separate MRI Brain (CPT[®] 70553) is only medically necessary if there are CNS-specific symptoms.
Initial screening for individuals diagnosed at age 18 or older	- One-time PET/CT (CPT[®] 78815 or 78816), with 68Ga-DOTA-SSAs - FDG may be substituted if Dotatate radiotracers are not available
Known pheochromocytoma or other neuroendocrine tumors	See: Neuroendocrine Cancers and Adrenal Tumors (ONC-15) in the Oncology Imaging Guidelines

Background and Supporting Information

- Caused by mutations in *SDHx* and related genes, this syndrome is inherited in an autosomal dominant manner (50% risk to offspring), and is associated with pheochromocytomas and paragangliomas.
- Individuals with multiple endocrine neoplasias should not use this guideline and should be imaged according to **Multiple Endocrine Neoplasias (MEN) (PEDONC-2.8)**.
- MRI is preferred to CT to minimize radiation exposure given these individuals' lifelong need for screening
- All individuals with HPP receive annual measurement of catecholamines
- EANM–SNMMI joint guidelines propose the use of 68Ga-DOTA-SSAs PET as the first-choice functional imaging modality in adult SDHx mutation carriers and the use of 18F-FDG when 68Ga-DOTA-SSAs PET is not available.

Costello Syndrome (PEDONC-2.14)

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The following imaging studies should be considered medically necessary in individuals with Costello Syndrome:

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Following confirmation of gene mutation	- ANY or ALL of the following: - Echocardiogram - CPT[®] 93306 or - CPT[®] 93308 with 93321 and 93325 - MRI Brain (CPT[®] 70553) without and with contrast - MRI Cervical (CPT[®] 72156) and Thoracic Spine (CPT[®] 72157) without and with contrast
All individuals, from birth to 10th birthday	- Every 3 months: - US Abdomen (CPT[®] 76700) and Pelvis (CPT[®] 76856)
Known cardiac disease	See: Initial Transthoracic Echocardiography (TTE) Indications (PEDCD-8.2) and Repeat Transthoracic Echocardiography Indications (PEDCD-8.3) in the Pediatric Cardiology Guidelines
Known rhabdomyosarcoma	See: Rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS) (PEDONC-8.2)
Known neuroblastoma	See: Neuroblastoma (PEDONC-6)

Background and Supporting Information

- Caused by mutations in *HRAS* genes, this syndrome is inherited in an autosomal dominant manner (50% risk to offspring), and is associated with rhabdomyosarcoma and neuroblastoma in early childhood, and transitional cell cancer of the bladder in older children and adults.

Constitutional Mismatch Repair Deficiency (CMMRD or Turcot Syndrome) (PEDONC-2.15)

ONCP.SC.0002.15.A

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The following imaging studies should be considered medically necessary in individuals with CMMRD/Turcot Syndrome:

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
All individuals, after CMMRD diagnosis is confirmed by genetic mutation	MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) every 6 months
All individuals, beginning at age 4 years	Annual esophagogastroduodenoscopy and colonoscopy
All individuals, beginning at age 6 years	- Annual whole-body MRI (CPT[®] 76498) 76498 is the only code for whole-body MRI at this time

Background and Supporting Information

- A highly penetrant and aggressive cancer predisposing syndrome resulting from autosomal recessive inheritance of biallelic mutations in mismatch repair genes, CMMRD syndrome leads to substantial risk for several commonly fatal childhood malignancies - high-grade CNS tumors (glioma, PNET, medulloblastoma) and hematologic malignancies (non-Hodgkin lymphoma, acute lymphoblastic leukemia). Individuals with CMMRD are also at increased risk for gastrointestinal tumors.

Hereditary Leiomyomatosis and Renal Cell Cancer (HLRCC) (PEDONC-2.16)

ONCP.SC.0002.16.A

v2.0.2026

The following imaging studies should be considered medically necessary in individuals with HLRCC:

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
- Beginning at age 8 years, individuals with at least ONE of the following: - Documented fumarate hydratase (FH) gene mutation/variant consistent with HLRCC - Histologically confirmed multiple cutaneous piloleiomyomas - At least TWO of the following manifestations: - Surgical treatment for symptomatic uterine leiomyomas before age 40 - Type 2 papillary renal cell carcinoma or collecting duct renal carcinoma before age 40 - A first-degree family member with either of the two above criteria	MRI Abdomen with and without contrast (CPT® 74183), annually

Background and Supporting Information

- Hereditary leiomyomatosis and renal cell cancer (HLRCC) is a disorder in which affected individuals tend to develop benign tumors containing smooth muscle tissue (leiomyomas) in the skin and, in females, the uterus. Approximately 20 percent of people with HLRCC develop renal cell cancer. People with HLRCC are commonly diagnosed with kidney cancer in their forties but cases have been reported in individuals as young as 11.
- In 2019, Forde et. al. published the first large, prospective study of screening for HLRCC and showed that most symptomatic individuals present with stage 3 or 4 RCC with a high risk of death and one life is saved for every 5 individuals on an MRI screening protocol.

Other Renal Cell Cancer Predisposition Syndromes (PEDONC-2.17)

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Birt-Hogg-Dube Syndrome (BHDS)

The following imaging studies should be considered medically necessary in individuals with BHDS:

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
All individuals, beginning at age 20 years	- MRI Abdomen without and with contrast (CPT® 74183) and MRI Pelvis without and with contrast (CPT® 72197) annually - If no family history of renal tumors AND after 2 consecutive normal MRIs, MRI is medically necessary every 2 years

Background and Supporting Information

- Birt-Hogg-Dube Syndrome (BHDS) is an autosomal dominant disorder with a heterozygous pathogenic variant in FLCN gene.
- These individuals have, or may have:
 - Cutaneous manifestations (fibrofolliculomas, acrochordons, angiofibromas, oral papules, cutaneous collagenomas, and epidermal cysts)
 - Pulmonary cysts/history of pneumothorax
 - A seven-fold increase in renal tumors
 - The most common renal tumors are oncocytoma, chromophobe, and a hybrid of these two.
 - Renal tumors may be multifocal and bilateral.
 - Median age of renal tumor diagnosis is 48 years.
- Recommended cancer screening includes:
 - Screening colonoscopy starting at age 40
 - Earlier colonoscopy may be considered for those with a family history of colorectal cancer earlier than age 40.

BAP1 Tumor Predisposition Syndrome

The following imaging studies should be considered medically necessary in individuals with BAP1:

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
All individuals, beginning at age 30 years	Abdominal MRI with and without contrast (CPT[®] 74183) every 2 years

Background and Supporting Information

BAP1 tumor predisposition syndrome (TPDS) is an autosomal dominant condition with a predisposition to melanoma (ocular and cutaneous), mesothelioma, clear cell renal cancer, and chromophobe renal cancer.

Hereditary Papillary Renal Carcinoma (HPRC)

The following imaging studies should be considered medically necessary in individuals with HPRC:

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
All individuals, beginning at age 30 years	Abdominal MRI with and without contrast (CPT[®] 74183) annually

Background and Supporting Information

- Hereditary papillary renal carcinoma (HPRC) is an autosomal dominant condition involving the MET gene and predisposes individuals to multifocal, bilateral renal tumors.

DICER1

The following imaging studies should be considered medically necessary in individuals with DICER1:

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
DICER1 mutation asymptomatic lung surveillance	- Once at age 3-6 months of age and again at 2.5-3 years of age: - CT Chest (contrast as requested) - In addition, chest x-ray at birth and every 6 months until 8 years of age and annually until age 12

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
DICER1 mutation asymptomatic abdominal and pelvic surveillance	- Every 3 months, from birth to the 8th birthday, then every 12 months until 12 years of age: - Abdominal US (CPT[®] 76700) - After age 12, it is medically necessary for females with DICER1 mutation to continue abdominal and pelvic ultrasounds (CPT[®] 76700 and CPT[®] 76856 or CPT[®] 76857) annually until age 40
DICER1 mutation thyroid surveillance	Baseline thyroid US (CPT[®] 76536) by 8 years of age then every 3 years
Individuals with DICER1 mutation and new CNS symptoms	MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553)

Other Renal Predisposition Syndromes

The following imaging studies should be considered medically necessary in individuals with other renal predisposition syndromes:

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
- Individuals with any of the following genetic variants or syndromes: - REST, TRIM28, FBXW7, NYNRIN, KDM3B, XPO5, CHECK2, PALB2, CTNNB1, DROSHA, WT1 and 2, WTX, DGCR8, SIC1 and 2, BCORL1, MLLT1, MYCN, DIS3L2 - Bloom Syndrome/BLM mutations - Frasier Syndrome - Trisomy 18 - Perlman Syndrome - Bohring-Opitz Syndrome (ASXL1) - MULIBREY and Nanism Syndrome - Congenital anomalies associated with Wilms Tumor - Horseshoe kidney - Renal ectopia, hypoplasia, or renal/ureteral duplication - Congenital mesoblastic nephroma	- Every 3 months, from birth to the 8th birthday: - Abdominal US (CPT® 76700)

Background and Supporting Information

- The list of syndromes and congenital anomalies associated with Wilms Tumor specifically is ever growing. The following genetic variants and syndromes, not otherwise listed in **PEDONC-2** for more specific imaging, may have imaging as shown above.

Infantile Myofibromatosis (PEDONC-2.18)

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The following imaging studies should be considered medically necessary in individuals with Infantile Myofibromatosis:

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Assess for the presence of multifocal disease in children under two years of age	WBMRI (CPT[®] 76498) once within 6 months of diagnosis
- Pre-operative planning or - Signs or symptoms suggesting progression that may require treatment with surgery or chemotherapy	Imaging of cutaneous/muscular sites with MRI with and without contrast of symptomatic sites or sites requiring treatment.
Unresected, known visceral sites of disease	MRI with and without contrast of unresected visceral involved sites, every 6 months until the age of two years
- Post-operative evaluation and both of the following: - Adequacy of resection is unclear and - Re-excision is being considered	One-time MRI with and without contrast
Surveillance for emergence of visceral disease	- Every 6 months, until the age of two years: - CT Chest with contrast (CPT[®] 71260) or without contrast (CPT[®] 71250) - CT Abdomen and Pelvis (CPT[®] 74177) - CT should not duplicate simultaneous MRI imaging of involved sites
Individuals requiring chemotherapy	See: <u>PEDONC-8.3</u>

Background and Supporting Information

- Infantile myofibromatosis is a benign condition characterized by soft tissue tumors, 90% of which present in the first 2 years of life. 75% of cases present as solitary lesions affecting the skin and/or muscles of the head, neck and trunk. Other patterns of inheritance include congenital multicentric disease limited to skin and muscle, congenital multicentric with a single visceral site, and congenital with multiple visceral site involvement.
- The condition is most commonly sporadic, though familial cases associated with *PDGFRB* and *NOTCH3* have been described
- The majority of cases with skin or muscle only involvement regress spontaneously.
- Visceral cases are lethal in the absence of therapy in 75% of cases due to organ compression, particularly with cardiopulmonary involvement.
- If vital structures are involved or significant symptoms occur, treatment is generally radical resection. Chemotherapy is sometimes utilized for progressive or multifocal life threatening lesions.
- Infants may present with a single lesion and develop further lesions in the first two years of life. This scenario, along with the inability of infants to readily express symptoms, impacts the imaging studies that may be approved.
- Routine surveillance of cutaneous/muscular sites is not supported as spontaneous regression is common.
- Surveillance beyond the age of two years is not supported.

Bloom Syndrome (PEDONC-2.19)

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The following imaging studies should be considered medically necessary in individuals with Bloom Syndrome:

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Malignancy screening particularly lymphomas	- Every 2 years, starting at age 13: - Whole-Body MRI (CPT[®] 76498)
Wilms tumor screening	See: <u>Other Renal Cell Cancer Predisposition Syndromes (PEDONC-2.17)</u>
Gastrointestinal tumor screening	There is no strong data to support endoscopic screening
Breast cancer screening	There is no strong data to support Breast MRI. See: <u>Breast MRI Indications (BR-5.1)</u> for any updates to imaging

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Pediatric Leukemias (PEDONC-3)

Guideline

Pediatric Leukemia General Considerations (PEDONC-3.1)

Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL) (PEDONC-3.2)

Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) (PEDONC-3.3)

References (PEDONC-3)

Pediatric Leukemia General Considerations (PEDONC-3.1)

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- MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT® 70553) is medically necessary in individuals exhibiting CNS symptoms
 - CT Head without or with contrast (CPT® 70450 or CPT® 70460) is medically necessary for urgent concerns where MRI would delay care (i.e., suspected CNS bleeding)
 - Imaging due to CSF tumor burden has not been shown to improve the detection of CNS involvement compared with CSF alone
- See: **Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation (ONC-29)** for imaging guidelines related to transplant

Background and Supporting Information

- The overwhelming majority of leukemias occurring in children are acute. Chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML) is rare in children, and the occurrence of chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) appears to have only been reported once in pediatric individuals to date
- Routine advanced imaging is not indicated in the evaluation and management of chronic myeloid leukemia in the absence of specific localizing clinical symptoms or clearance for hematopoietic stem cell transplantation

Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL) (PEDONC-3.2)

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- Individuals with B-precursor or T-cell lymphoblastic lymphoma without bone marrow involvement are treated similarly to individuals with leukemia of the same cell type and should be imaged according to this guideline section
- This section does not apply to individuals with mature B-cell histology (primarily Burkitt's in children). Please refer to **Pediatric Aggressive Mature B-Cell Non-Hodgkin Lymphomas (NHL) (PEDONC-5.3)** for guidelines for these individuals
- Scrotal Ultrasound CPT[®] 76870 and/or doppler ultrasound of the scrotum CPT[®] 93975 or 93976 is medically necessary for suspected testicular involvement.
- Chest x-ray should be performed to evaluate for mediastinal mass in suspected cases or upon initial diagnosis.
 - CT Chest with contrast (CPT[®] 71260) is medically necessary to immediately evaluate for airway compression and anesthesia safety prior to attempting histologic diagnosis if mediastinal widening is seen on chest x-ray
 - In individuals with known or strongly suspected T-cell histology or other suspected lymphoblastic lymphoma involvement, EITHER of the following is medically necessary for initial staging purposes:
 - CT Neck (CPT[®] 70491), CT Chest (CPT[®] 71260), and CT Abdomen and Pelvis (CPT[®] 74177) with contrast OR
 - PET/CT (CPT[®] 78816)
 - Indications and coding for rare circumstances where PET/MRI is medically necessary are found in **PET Imaging in Pediatric Oncology (PEDONC-1.4)**
- MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) is medically necessary for individuals exhibiting CNS symptoms.
 - Imaging due to CSF tumor burden has not been shown to improve the detection of CNS involvement compared with CSF alone.
 - CT Head without or with contrast (CPT[®] 70450 or CPT[®] 70460) is medically necessary for urgent concerns where MRI would delay care (i.e., suspected CNS bleeding)

Additional imaging in lymphoblastic lymphoma/lymphomatous extramedullary disease:

- CT is medically necessary to assess response to therapy **only** for individuals with known bulky nodal disease (usually with T-cell histology) at the end of induction (4

to 6 weeks). CT is medically necessary for individuals with residual masses every new therapy phase (Consolidation, Interim maintenance, etc., generally every 8 to 12 weeks) until disease resolution is seen

- PET/CT (CPT[®] 78815) is medically necessary when residual mass ≥ 8 mm in diameter is present on recent CT imaging **and** immediate radiation or chemotherapy plan will be based on results.
 - Residual mass of any size with no PET-avidity is considered a complete response at the extranodal/lymphomatous site.
- Chest x-ray or Abdominal ultrasound (CPT[®] 76700) **only**, as indicated by site(s) of bulky disease present at diagnosis, is medically necessary for further surveillance, once CT imaging shows no evidence of disease.
- CT of all involved bulky nodal areas is medically necessary in individuals with persistent residual masses performed as part of an end of therapy evaluation

Immunosuppression during ALL therapy:

- CT or MRI is medically necessary for infectious disease concerns for individuals with ALL with:
 - Absolute neutrophil count (ANC) < 500 or
 - Inconclusive findings on chest x-ray **or** ultrasound at any ANC during active treatment
- Individuals with ALL are severely immunocompromised during the first 4 to 6 weeks of treatment (induction) and any conventional imaging request to evaluate for infectious complications during this time frame is medically necessary
- MRA/MRV of the head (CPT[®] 70544, 70545, or 70546) is medically necessary for the following:
 - To rule out bleeding associated with sinus venous thrombosis in individuals treated with asparaginase

Imaging during therapy for relapsed ALL:

- Frequent CT or MRI imaging is medically necessary to evaluate known or suspected new sites of invasive fungal or other aggressive infections
- Surveillance imaging of asymptomatic individuals to detect invasive fungal infection is medically necessary **only** when acute clinical decisions will be made based on the imaging

Imaging of known or suspected osteonecrosis in ALL:

- MRI without contrast or without and with contrast of the affected joint(s) is medically necessary for symptoms suggesting osteonecrosis
 - CT without contrast is medically necessary when MRI is contraindicated or unavailable, or for diagnosis of suspected subchondral fracture

- MRI Bilateral Hips (CPT[®] 73721 or CPT[®] 73723 with modifier -50) is medically necessary once at 6 to 9 months after diagnosis for individuals age ≥ 11 years
- Repeat MRI without contrast of the affected joint(s) is medically necessary every 2 cycles of maintenance (every 6 months) if reintroduction of corticosteroids is being considered in individuals whose symptoms have resolved and are still receiving active treatment
- MRI without contrast of the affected joint(s) is medically necessary for preoperative planning for individuals undergoing core decompression
- See: **Osteonecrosis In Long Term Cancer Survivors (PEDONC-19.4)** for information on osteonecrosis in ALL individuals who have completed therapy

Background and Supporting Information

- The majority of individuals with ALL have B-precursor ALL and routine advanced imaging is not necessary.
- Individuals with ALL who relapse are treated with very intensive chemotherapy regimens and most spend the majority of their chemotherapy treatment phase in the hospital
- Individuals may have therapy-induced hypogammaglobulinemia which requires supplemental intravenous immune globulin (IVIG) during maintenance therapy. Those receiving supplemental IVIG should be treated similarly to individuals with ANC < 500 with regards to imaging for infectious disease
- Osteonecrosis (ON) in individuals with ALL is a relatively common complication of ALL and its treatment, primary corticosteroids. Approximately 3% of younger children and 12 to 15% of adolescents are affected by ON at some point during therapy. The peak incidence occurs approximately one year from the time of diagnosis
- Screening MRI of asymptomatic individuals age ≤ 10 years to detect osteonecrosis has not been shown to impact individual outcomes, and it is not standard to alter treatment based on imaging findings alone without symptoms
- If osteonecrosis is detected on initial MRI, corticosteroids are often withheld during maintenance chemotherapy (but continued in earlier phases of therapy).

Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) (PEDONC-3.3)

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- Frequent CT or MRI imaging is medically necessary to evaluate known sites of invasive fungal infection
- Surveillance imaging of asymptomatic individuals is medically necessary to detect invasive fungal infection **only** when acute clinical decisions will be made based on the imaging
- Advanced imaging may be approved on a case-by-case basis for rare individuals with bulky tumor masses (commonly referred to as chloromas, leukemic sarcomas, or myeloid sarcomas) noted on physical examination or other imaging such as plain film or ultrasound

Background and Supporting Information

- The majority of AML individuals do not have any bulky disease and routine advanced imaging is not necessary
- AML individuals are treated with very intensive chemotherapy regimens and spend the majority of their chemotherapy treatment phase in the hospital

References (PEDONC-3)

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CNS Tumors (PEDONC-4)

Guideline

CNS Tumors General Considerations (PEDONC-4.1)
CNS Low Grade Gliomas (LGG) (PEDONC-4.2)
CNS High Grade Gliomas (HGG) (PEDONC-4.3)
Medulloblastoma (MDB), Other CNS Embryonal Tumors, and Pineoblastoma (PEDONC-4.4)
Atypical Teratoid/Rhabdoid Tumors (ATRT) (PEDONC-4.5)
Pineocytomas and Pineal Parenchymal Tumors (PEDONC-4.6)
CNS Germinomas and Non-Germinomatous Germ Cell Tumors (NGGCT) (PEDONC-4.7)
Ependymal Tumors (Ependymoma) (PEDONC-4.8)
Malignant Tumors of the Spinal Cord (PEDONC-4.9)
Craniopharyngioma and Other Tumors of the Sellar Region (PEDONC-4.10)
Primary CNS Lymphoma (PEDONC-4.11)
Meningiomas (PEDONC-4.12)
Choroid Plexus Tumors (PEDONC-4.13)
References (PEDONC-4)

CNS Tumors General Considerations (PEDONC-4.1)

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- The classification of pediatric central nervous tumors has recently been revised to incorporate molecular biomarkers in addition to histology, immunohistochemical results and ultrastructure characteristics. The changes in nomenclature are incorporated in these guidelines.
- Central nervous system tumors are the second most common form of childhood cancer, accounting for ~20% of all pediatric malignancies

Red Flag Symptoms Raising Suspicion for CNS Tumors Include:

Any headache complaint from a child age ≤ 5 years

Headaches awakening from sleep

Focal findings on neurologic exam

Clumsiness (common description of gait or coordination problems in young children)

Headaches associated with morning nausea/vomiting

New onset of seizure activity with focal features

Papilledema on physical exam

Loss of developmental milestones (infants and young children)

MRI Considerations

- MRI is the preferred imaging modality for all pediatric CNS tumors
 - MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) is the primary imaging study for pediatric brain tumors
 - MRI Brain without contrast (CPT[®] 70551) if requested for initial evaluation of suspected CNS tumor for children able to undergo MRI without sedation
 - Initial MRI should be performed without and with contrast in order to avoid a second anesthesia exposure in younger children requiring sedation for MRI

- MRI Spine with contrast only (Cervical-CPT[®] 72142, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72147, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72149) can be substituted where MRI Spine without and with contrast is indicated, if being performed immediately following a contrast-enhanced MRI Brain
- Functional MRI (fMRI) (CPT[®] 70555 or CPT[®] 70554) is medically necessary to depict spatial relationships between eloquent cortex and neoplasms for preoperative planning and to promote safe resections (following baseline MRI Brain).
- Refer to **Neuronavigation (HD-28.2)** for additional guidance on perioperative imaging.
- MRI Orbits without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70543) is medically necessary in individuals who present with papilledema, altered vision, strabismus, nystagmus, anisocoria, proptosis, ocular cranial nerve palsies, coloboma, or leukocoria.

CT Considerations

- CT for evaluation of ventriculomegaly or other operative considerations, or for children who cannot undergo MRI safely
 - CT for evaluation of headaches related to head trauma or evaluation of skull or facial bone abnormalities
 - Post-contrast CT is generally not indicated
- CT is not a recommended study for evaluation of pediatric headache when brain tumor is clinically suspected because of its limited diagnostic accuracy in this area. MRI should be used as first line imaging in these cases
- CT should not be used in place of MRI to avoid sedation in young children when red flag symptoms for CNS tumors are present

MRA/CTA and Perfusion Studies

- MRA or CTA **only** for preoperative planning or to clarify inconclusive findings on MRI or CT
- CT and MRI Perfusion
 - See: **CT or MRI Perfusion (HD-24.5)** in the Head Imaging guidelines

MR Spectroscopy (MRS, CPT[®] 76390)

- MRS is **only** medically necessary for use in brain tumors of specified histologies where diagnostic accuracy has been established in peer-reviewed literature
 - See diagnosis-specific guidelines for MRS indications
- MRS is considered not medically necessary for all other histologies and indications not listed in a diagnosis-specific guideline section
- MR spectroscopy is not medically necessary for routine surveillance

PET Brain Imaging (CPT[®] 78608 and CPT[®] 78609)

- PET Brain Metabolic imaging (CPT[®] 78608) is **only** medically necessary for use in brain tumors of specified histologies where diagnostic accuracy has been established in peer-reviewed literature
 - See diagnosis-specific guidelines for PET indications
- PET Brain Metabolic is not medically necessary for routine surveillance
- PET Brain Metabolic imaging is considered not medically necessary for all other histologies and indications not listed in a diagnosis-specific guideline section
- PET Brain Perfusion imaging (CPT[®] 78609) is not medically necessary in the evaluation or management of primary CNS tumors
- Fusion PET/CT studies (CPT[®] 78814, CPT[®] 78815, or CPT[®] 78816) are not medically necessary in the evaluation or management of primary CNS tumors

Timing and Frequency of Imaging

- Definitive imaging should be completed prior to considering biopsy given the high degree of morbidity associated with operating on the CNS
 - Occasionally biopsy is not necessary because the imaging findings provide a definitive diagnosis
 - Examples include diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma and optic pathway gliomas in an individual with known neurofibromatosis
- Perioperative imaging frequency
 - Children may undergo very frequent imaging in the immediate perioperative period around resection or debulking of a CNS tumor due to the small anatomic spaces involved
 - Requests for imaging during this time period to specifically evaluate postoperative course or ventriculoperitoneal shunt functioning are medically necessary
 - MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) is medically necessary one time in the immediate preoperative period (even if another study has already been completed) to gain additional information which can be important in optimizing individual outcomes, such as:
 - Completion of additional specialized MRI sequences such as diffusion-tensor imaging
 - Perfusion imaging (CPT[®] 70553, 70551, OR 70552)
 - Tractography
 - Other sequences not reported under a separate CPT[®] code but not part of a routine MRI Brain series
 - Repeat MRI Brain that is being requested solely for loading into operative navigation software should not be requested as a diagnostic code but is medically necessary under a treatment planning code (CPT[®] 76498).

- **Clinical note:** for all pediatric CNS tumors, cerebrospinal fluid pathology positive for malignancy is considered leptomeningeal/spinal disease.

CNS Low Grade Gliomas (LGG) (PEDONC-4.2)

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- MR Spectroscopy and PET Brain Metabolic are not medically necessary for routine surveillance.
- MRI is generally superior to CT for staging and restaging CNS malignancies, but CT is medically necessary in accordance with these guidelines where MRI is contraindicated.

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Initial staging of all LGG	• MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) • MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158) • MRI Orbits without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70543) in addition to the above studies for individuals presenting with visual signs or symptoms as listed in PEDONC-4.1
In addition to the above imaging, for preoperative planning	• Functional MRI (fMRI) (CPT[®] 70555 or 70554) • For further perioperative indications, please refer to Neuronavigation (HD-28.2).
• At any time, for ANY of the following: ◦ For rapid assessment in the acute setting ◦ Evaluation of acute intracranial hemorrhage ◦ Evaluation of ventriculomegaly ◦ Evaluation of shunt-related issues	• CT Head without contrast (CPT[®] 70450)

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
• ANY of the following: ◦ Determining the need for biopsy when transformation to high grade glioma is suspected based on clinical symptoms or recent MRI findings ◦ Evaluation of a brain lesion of indeterminate nature when the PET findings will be used to determine whether biopsy/resection can be safely postponed	• PET Brain Metabolic imaging (CPT[®] 78608)
• ANY of the following: ◦ Distinguish low grade from high grade gliomas ◦ Evaluate a brain lesion of indeterminate nature when the MRS findings will be used to determine whether biopsy/resection can be safely postponed ◦ Distinguish radiation-induced tumor necrosis from progressive disease within 18 months of completing radiotherapy	• MR Spectroscopy (MRS, CPT[®] 76390)
Baseline imaging after resection, to assess degree of resection	• MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) • MRI with and without contrast at level of resected spinal site • If orbital resection, MRI Orbits without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70543)
Treatment response at the completion of radiotherapy	• MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) • MRI with and without contrast at level of irradiated spinal site • If prior orbital involvement, MRI Orbits without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70543)

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Treatment response on chemotherapy	• MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) approved every 2 cycles during active treatment and at the end of planned chemotherapy • If prior orbital involvement, MRI Orbits without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70543)
Additional treatment response imaging during induction chemotherapy for individuals with measurable spinal cord disease on MRI	• MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158) every 2 cycles

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Surveillance, including individuals with unresected disease on observation only	- For individuals with intracranial primary: - MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT® 70553) every 3 months for 2 years, then every 6 months for 3 years, then annually thereafter. - If prior orbital involvement, MRI Orbits without and with contrast (CPT® 70543) - MRI Spine is not medically necessary during surveillance in individuals without prior history of spinal involvement except to evaluate symptoms suspicious for spinal cord recurrence - For individuals with a history of spine primary tumor or metastatic spinal involvement: - MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT® 72156, Thoracic-CPT® 72157, Lumbar-CPT® 72158) every 3 months for 2 years, then every 6 months for 3 years, then annually thereafter - For individuals with NF1 ANY of the following: - MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT® 70553) every 3 months for 2 years, then every 6 months for 3 years, then annually thereafter - MRI Orbits without and with contrast (CPT® 70543) every 3 months for 2 years, then every 6 months for 3 years, then annually thereafter
Suspected intracranial or intraspinal recurrence	All imaging supported in initial staging criteria

Background and Supporting Information

Includes the following tumors:

- Pediatric-type diffuse low-grade gliomas
 - Diffuse astrocytoma, MYB- or MYBL1-altered
 - Angiocentric glioma
 - Polymorphous low-grade neuroepithelial tumor of the young
 - Diffuse low-grade glioma, MAPK pathway-altered
- Circumscribed astrocytic gliomas
 - Pilocytic astrocytoma
 - High-grade astrocytoma with piloid features
 - Pleomorphic xanthoastrocytoma
 - Subependymal giant cell astrocytoma (SEGA)
 - Choroid glioma
 - Astroblastoma, MN
- Glioneuronal and neuronal tumors
 - Ganglioglioma
 - Desmoplastic infantile ganglioglioma/desmoplastic infantile astrocytoma
 - Dysembryoplastic neuroepithelial tumor
 - Diffuse glioneuronal tumor with oligodendroglioma-like features and nuclear clusters
 - Papillary glioneuronal tumor
 - Rosette-forming glioneuronal tumor
 - Myxoid glioneuronal tumor
 - Diffuse leptomeningeal glioneuronal tumor
 - Gangliocytoma
 - Multinodular and vacuolating neuronal tumor
 - Dysplastic cerebellar gangliocytoma (Lhermitte-Duclos disease)
 - Central neurocytoma
 - Extraventricular neurocytoma
 - Cerebellar liponeurocytoma
- Any other glial tumor with a WHO grade I or II classification

General Considerations:

- Account for 40% to 60% of pediatric CNS tumors.
- These tumors are defined as having a WHO grade of I or II (out of IV) and can occur anywhere in the CNS

Treatment Considerations:

- Children with neurofibromatosis and small optic pathway tumors may not undergo biopsy or resection and will proceed directly to treatment or surveillance
- Children on observation without specific treatment should be imaged according to surveillance guidelines for LGG
- Individuals who undergo complete resection should be imaged according to surveillance guidelines after post-resection imaging
- Individuals age >10 years with incompletely resected tumors usually receive adjuvant radiation therapy
- Individuals age ≤10 years with incompletely resected tumors are commonly treated with chemotherapy

CNS High Grade Gliomas (HGG) (PEDONC-4.3)

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Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Initial staging of all HGG	- MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) - MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158)
In addition to the above imaging, for preoperative planning	- Functional MRI (fMRI) (CPT[®] 70555 or 70554) - For further perioperative indications, please refer to <u>Neuronavigation (HD-28.2)</u>.
- At any time, for ANY of the following: - For rapid assessment in the acute setting - Evaluation of acute intracranial hemorrhage - Evaluation of ventriculomegaly - Evaluation of shunt-related issues	CT Head without contrast (CPT[®] 70450)

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
• ANY of the following: ◦ Distinguishing radiation-induced tumor necrosis from progressive disease within 18 months of completing radiotherapy ◦ Evaluating inconclusive MRI findings when the PET findings will be used to determine need for biopsy or change in therapy, including a change from active therapy to surveillance ◦ Evaluation of a brain lesion of indeterminate nature when the PET findings will be used to determine whether biopsy/resection can be safely postponed	• PET Brain Metabolic Imaging (CPT® 78608)
• ANY of the following: ◦ To distinguish low grade from high grade gliomas ◦ To evaluate a brain lesion of indeterminate nature when the MRS findings will be used to determine whether biopsy/resection can be safely postponed ◦ To distinguish radiation-induced tumor necrosis from progressive disease within 18 months of completing radiotherapy	• MR Spectroscopy (MRS, CPT® 76390)
• To depict spatial relationships between eloquent cortex and tumor prior to resection	• Functional MRI (fMRI) (CPT® 70544 or CPT® 70555)
Baseline imaging following resection, to assess degree of resection	• MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT® 70553) • MRI Spine without and with contrast of resected area, or whole spine if requested (Cervical-CPT® 72156, Thoracic-CPT® 72157, Lumbar-CPT® 72158)

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Treatment response at the completion of radiotherapy	• MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) • MRI Spine without and with contrast of irradiated area, or whole spine if requested (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158)
Treatment response on chemotherapy	• MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) every 2 cycles during active treatment and at the end of planned chemotherapy
Additional treatment response imaging during induction chemotherapy for individuals with measurable spinal cord disease on MRI	• MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158) every 2 cycles
Signs or symptoms of recurrence or progression	• MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) • MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158)

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Surveillance	- For individuals with intracranial primary: - MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) every 2 months for 1 year, then every 3 months thereafter - MRI Spine is not medically necessary during surveillance in individuals without prior history of spinal involvement except to evaluate symptoms suspicious for spinal cord recurrence - For individuals with a history of spine primary tumor or metastatic spinal involvement: - MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158) every 2 months for 1 year, then every 3 months thereafter - For both brain and spine disease, imaging above may be complemented by MR perfusion and/or MR spectroscopy, and these studies are medically necessary if requested.
Suspected intracranial or intraspinal recurrence	Utilize criteria listed for initial staging above.
Suspected spinal cord recurrence	MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158)

Background and Supporting Information

Includes the following tumors:

- Diffuse midline glioma, H3 K27-altered
- Diffuse hemispheric glioma, H3 G34-mutant
- Diffuse pediatric-type high-grade glioma, H3-wildtype and IDH-wildtype
- Infant-type hemispheric glioma
- Any other glial tumor with a WHO grade of III or IV classification

General Considerations:

- Rare in children compared with the adult population, but represent 10% to 20% of pediatric CNS tumors
- Prognosis is very poor, and survival significantly beyond 3 years from diagnosis is rare, even with complete surgical resection at initial diagnosis
- These tumors are defined as having a WHO histologic grade of III or IV (out of IV) can occur anywhere in the CNS (though the majority occur in the brain)

Treatment Considerations:

- Individuals who undergo complete resection should be imaged according to surveillance guidelines after post-resection imaging.
- Individuals with incompletely resected tumors are commonly treated with chemotherapy.

Medulloblastoma (MDB), Other CNS Embryonal Tumors, and Pineoblastoma (PEDONC-4.4)

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- MR Spectroscopy and PET Brain Metabolic are not medically necessary for routine surveillance.

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Initial staging for all individuals, preoperatively	- MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) - MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158)
In addition to the above imaging, for preoperative planning	- Functional MRI (fMRI) (CPT[®]) 70555 or 70554) - For further perioperative indications, please refer to Neuronavigation (HD-28.2)
- At any time, for ANY of the following: - For rapid assessment in the acute setting - Evaluation of acute intracranial hemorrhage - Evaluation of ventriculomegaly - Evaluation of shunt-related issues	CT Head without contrast (CPT[®] 70450)

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
• ANY of the following: ◦ To distinguish radiation-induced tumor necrosis from progressive disease within 18 months of completing radiotherapy ◦ To evaluate inconclusive MRI findings when the PET findings will be used to determine need for biopsy or change in therapy, including a change from active therapy to surveillance ◦ To evaluate a brain lesion of indeterminate nature when the PET findings will be used to determine whether biopsy/resection can be safely postponed	• PET Brain Metabolic Imaging (CPT[®] 78608)
• ANY of the following: ◦ To evaluate a brain lesion of indeterminate nature when the MRS findings will be used to determine whether biopsy/resection can be safely postponed	• MR Spectroscopy (CPT[®] 76390)
Postoperative (preferably within 48 hours of surgery) to quantify residual tumor volume	• MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) • MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic (CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158) if spinal disease was resected
Within 28 days post-op, if spinal imaging was not performed preoperatively	• MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158)

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Treatment response	- At the start of adjuvant chemotherapy and every 2 cycles until therapy is completed: - MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) - MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158)
Children age <3 years treated with multiple cycles of high dose chemotherapy with autologous stem cell rescue in lieu of radiotherapy	Disease evaluations (imaging per treatment response guidelines) prior to each cycle (every 4 to 6 weeks) if needed for response determination.
End of treatment evaluation	- MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) - MRI Spine with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72142, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72147, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72149) or MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158)
Signs or symptoms of recurrence or progression	- MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) - MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158)

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Surveillance	For low- or average-risk individuals: • Every 3 months for 2 years, then every 6 months for 3 years: ◦ MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT® 70553) • Every 6 months for 2 years: ◦ MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT® 72156, Thoracic-CPT® 72157, Lumbar-CPT® 72158) For high- or very high-risk individuals: • Every 3 months for 2 years, then every 6 months for 3 years: ◦ MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT® 70553) • Every 3 months for 2 years, then every year for 3 years: ◦ MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT® 72156, Thoracic-CPT® 72157, Lumbar-CPT® 72158) • For additional imaging guidelines for individuals in long-term follow-up after CNS tumor treatment that included radiation therapy, see: <u>Second Malignant Neoplasms (SMN) (PEDONC-19.3)</u>

Background and Supporting Information

Includes the Following Tumors:

- Medulloblastoma
 - Molecularly-defined Medulloblastoma
 - WNT-activated Medulloblastoma
 - SHH-activated and TP53-wildtype Medulloblastoma
 - SHH-activated and TP53-mutant Medulloblastoma
 - Non-WNT/Non-SHH
 - Medulloblastoma, histologically defined
- Other CNS Embryonal Tumors (previously supratentorial primitive neuro-ectodermal tumors)
 - CNS embryonal tumor
 - Cribriform neuroepithelial tumor
 - Embryonal tumor with multilayered rosettes
 - CNS neuroblastoma
 - FOXR2-activated CNS tumor with BCOR internal tandem duplication
- Pineoblastoma

Risk Assessment is Important in Determining Optimal Treatment

High-Risk Features Include the Following:

- Spinal metastasis (including cytology positive only)
- Multifocal intracranial tumors
- Anaplastic histology
- All other CNS embryonal tumors and pineoblastomas
- $>1.5 \text{ cm}^2$ residual tumor area on postoperative MRI and age <3 years

Individuals without any high-risk features are considered “Average Risk”

General Considerations:

- Account for 15% to 25% of pediatric CNS tumors
- Prognosis is generally favorable
- Leptomeningeal spread is common and can occur after initial diagnosis

Treatment Considerations:

- Individuals generally proceed to chemoradiotherapy within 31 days of surgical resection

- All individuals receive adjuvant chemotherapy lasting 6 to 12 months that begins ~6 weeks after completion of chemoradiotherapy

Atypical Teratoid/Rhabdoid Tumors (ATRT) (PEDONC-4.5)

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- PET Brain Metabolic does not have a defined role in the evaluation of ATRT at this time and is, therefore, not medically necessary.
- MR Spectroscopy is not medically necessary for routine surveillance.

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Initial staging for all individuals, preoperatively	• MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) • MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158) • Renal US (CPT[®] 76770) ◦ If renal US is abnormal, refer to: <u>Malignant Rhabdoid Tumor of the Kidney (MRT) and Other Extracranial Sites (PEDONC-7.6)</u>
In addition to the above imaging, for preoperative planning	• Functional MRI (fMRI) (CPT[®] 70555 or 70554) • For further perioperative indications, please refer to <u>Neuronavigation (HD-28.2)</u>
• At any time, for ANY of the following: ◦ For rapid assessment in the acute setting ◦ Evaluation of acute intracranial hemorrhage ◦ Evaluation of ventriculomegaly ◦ Evaluation of shunt-related issues	• CT Head without contrast (CPT[®] 70450)
Evaluation of a brain lesion of indeterminate nature when the MRS findings will be used to determine whether biopsy/resection can be safely postponed	• MR Spectroscopy (CPT[®] 76390)

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Postoperative (preferably within 48 hours of surgery) to quantify residual tumor volume	MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553)
Within 28 days post-op, if spinal imaging was not performed preoperatively	MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158)
Treatment response to induction chemotherapy	- After every 2 cycles: - MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) - MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158)
Individuals treated with consolidation chemotherapy and autologous stem cell rescue	Disease evaluation is medically necessary following the end of the planned stem cell rescues but may occur prior to each cycle (every 4 to 6 weeks) if needed for response determination
End of treatment evaluation	- MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) - MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158)
Signs or symptoms of recurrence or progression	- MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) - MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158)

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Surveillance	• Every 3 months for 2 years, then every 6 months for 3 years, then annually for 10 years: ◦ MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) ◦ MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158) • For additional imaging guidelines for individuals in long term follow up after CNS tumor treatment that included radiation therapy, see: <u>Second Malignant Neoplasms (SMN) (PEDONC-19.3)</u>

Background and Supporting Information:

General Considerations

- Highly aggressive tumor occurring primarily in very young children that has a clinical presentation very similar to medulloblastoma with a much higher rate of leptomeningeal spread.
- Metastases can occur outside the CNS, and associated tumors can also arise in the kidneys (Malignant Rhabdoid Tumor of the Kidney, MRT).
 - Rhabdoid malignancies occurring outside the CNS should be imaged according to **Malignant Rhabdoid Tumor of the Kidney (MRT) and Other Extracranial Sites (PEDONC-7.6)**.
- Overall prognosis is poor, with <20% of individuals surviving beyond 2 years from diagnosis.
- Individuals generally proceed to induction chemotherapy shortly following surgical resection or biopsy.
- Following completion of chemotherapy some individuals will proceed to radiotherapy.
 - MRI performed at the end of consolidation therapy should serve as the diagnostic MRI prior to radiotherapy.

Pineocytomas and Pineal Parenchymal Tumors (PEDONC-4.6)

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v2.0.2026

- PET Brain Metabolic imaging and MR Spectroscopy do not have a defined role in the evaluation of pineocytoma.

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Initial staging for all individuals	• MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553)
In addition to the above imaging, for preoperative planning	• Functional MRI (fMRI) (CPT[®] 70555 or 70554) • For further perioperative indications, please refer to Neuronavigation (HD-28.2)
• Additional initial staging imaging for individuals with: ◦ Multicentric tumors ◦ Atypical histology including pineoblastoma-like elements (grade 2 or 3 pineal parenchymal tumor which have not been considered a pineoblastoma) ◦ Clinical signs or symptoms suggesting spinal cord involvement	• MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158)
Baseline imaging following resection	• MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553)
End of radiotherapy	• MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553)
Additional imaging at end of radiotherapy for individuals with measurable spinal cord disease on MRI	• MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158)

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Surveillance	MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) every 3 months for 1 year, then every 4 months for 1 year, then every 6 months for 1 year, then annually thereafter
Additional surveillance imaging for individuals with cord involvement at diagnosis	MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158) after completion of therapy every 3 months for 1 year, then every 4 months for 1 year, then every 6 months for 1 year, then annually thereafter
Signs or symptoms of recurrence or progression	MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553)
Suspected spinal cord recurrence or progression	MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158)

Background and Supporting Information

General Considerations:

- Low grade malignancy that is similar in presentation to low grade glioma (LGG)
- Surgical resection is curative for most individuals
- Individuals with a complete resection should then be imaged according to surveillance guidelines
- Individuals with incompletely resected tumors may receive adjuvant radiation therapy
- After end of radiotherapy imaging, these individuals should be imaged according to surveillance guidelines

CNS Germinomas and Non-Germinomatous Germ Cell Tumors (NGGCT) (PEDONC-4.7)

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v2.0.2026

- PET Metabolic Brain imaging does not have a defined role in the evaluation of CNS GCT and is, therefore, considered not medically necessary.

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Initial staging for all individuals	- MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) - MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158)
In addition to the above imaging, for preoperative planning	- Functional MRI (fMRI) (CPT[®] 70555 or 70554) - For further perioperative indications, please refer to Neuronavigation (HD-28.2)
- At any time, for ANY of the following: - For rapid assessment in the acute setting - Evaluation of acute intracranial hemorrhage - Evaluation of ventriculomegaly - Evaluation of shunt-related issues	CT Head without contrast (CPT[®] 70450)
Evaluation of a brain lesion of indeterminate nature when the MRS findings will be used to determine whether biopsy/resection can be safely postponed	MR Spectroscopy (CPT[®] 76390)
Treatment response to induction chemotherapy	MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) every 2 cycles

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Additional treatment response to induction chemotherapy for individuals with measurable spinal cord disease on MRI	MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158) every 2 cycles
End of induction chemotherapy for individuals with localized intracranial tumors	MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158)
Prior to second-look surgery	MRI of all known sites of measurable disease
Prior to radiotherapy	MRI of all known sites of measurable disease
At the end of all planned therapy	- MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) - MRI Spine (with or without and with contrast)
Signs or symptoms of recurrence or progression	- MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) - MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158)
Surveillance	- Every 3 months for 1 year, then every 4 months for 1 year, then every 6 months for 1 year, then annually until 5 years after completion of therapy: - MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) - MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158) - For additional imaging guidelines for individuals in long term follow up after CNS tumor treatment that included radiation therapy, see: <u>Second Malignant Neoplasms (SMN) (PEDONC-19.3)</u>

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Suspected recurrence - new or worsening neurologic symptoms (including worsening of diabetes insipidus)	• MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) • MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158)

Background and Supporting Information

Includes the following tumors:
• CNS Germinoma • Non-Germinomatous Germ Cell Tumors (NGGCT) ◦ Embryonal carcinoma ◦ Yolk sac tumor ◦ Choriocarcinoma ◦ Immature Teratoma ◦ Mature Teratoma ◦ Mixed germ cell tumor

General Considerations:

- More common in older school age children and younger adolescents, but can occur throughout the pediatric age range
- Although leptomeningeal spread is common, prognosis is excellent due to high sensitivity to chemotherapy and radiotherapy
- Individuals generally proceed to chemotherapy shortly following surgical resection or biopsy and will usually receive 2 - 4 cycles
- Following completion of chemotherapy, individuals with residual disease will proceed to second-look surgery and/or radiotherapy

Ependymal Tumors (Ependymoma) (PEDONC-4.8)

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- PET Brain Metabolic imaging does not have a defined role in the evaluation of ependymal tumors and therefore is considered not medically necessary.
- MR Spectroscopy is not medically necessary for routine surveillance

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Initial staging for all individuals	• MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) • MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158)
In addition to the above imaging, for preoperative planning	• Functional MRI (fMRI) (CPT[®] 70555 or 70554) • For further perioperative indications, please refer to Neuronavigation (HD-28.2)
Evaluation of a brain lesion of indeterminate nature when the MRS findings will be used to determine whether biopsy/resection can be safely postponed	• MR Spectroscopy (CPT[®] 76390)
Baseline imaging following resection	• MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) or MRI without and with contrast of involved spinal level(s)
Completion of radiotherapy	• MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) or MRI without and with contrast of involved spinal level(s)
Prior to radiotherapy	• MRI of all known sites of measurable disease
Treatment response to induction chemotherapy	• MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) or MRI without and with contrast of involved spinal level(s) every 2 cycles

Pediatric and Special Populations Oncology Imaging Guidelines (For Ohio Only):

CSRAD021OH.F

Effective: September 1, 2026

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan Coverage Determination Guideline

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Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
End of induction chemotherapy and again at end of all therapy	• MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) • MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158)
Prior to second-look surgery	• MRI of all known sites of measurable disease
Signs or symptoms of recurrence or progression	• MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) • MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158)
Surveillance, primary intracranial ependymal tumor and NO history of spinal cord involvement	• MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) every 3 months for 2 years, then every 4 months for 1 year, then every 6 months in years 4 and 5, then annually to 10 years post treatment ◦ For additional imaging guidelines for individuals in long term follow up after CNS tumor treatment that included radiation therapy, see: <u>Second Malignant Neoplasms (SMN) (PEDONC-19.3)</u> • MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158) can be approved annually for 2 years

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Surveillance, primary intracranial ependymal tumor AND metastatic cord involvement at diagnosis	• MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) every 3 months for 2 years, then every 4 months for 1 year, then every 6 months in years 4 and 5, then annually to 10 years post treatment ◦ For additional imaging guidelines for individuals in long term follow up after CNS tumor treatment that included radiation therapy, see: <u>Second Malignant Neoplasms (SMN) (PEDONC-19.3)</u> • MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158) every 3 months for 2 years, then every 4 months for 1 year, then every 6 months in years 4 and 5, then annually to 10 years post treatment
Surveillance, primary intraspinal ependymal tumor and NO history of intracranial involvement	• MRI without and with contrast of the involved spinal level(s) every 3 months for 2 years, then every 4 months for 1 year, then every 6 months in years 4 and 5, then annually to 10 years post treatment
Surveillance, primary intraspinal ependymal tumor AND metastatic intracranial involvement at diagnosis	• MRI of the involved spinal level(s) without and with contrast every 3 months for 2 years, then every 4 months for 1 year, then every 6 months in years 4 and 5, then annually to 10 years post treatment • MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) every 3 months for 2 years, then every 4 months for 1 year, then every 6 months in years 4 and 5, then annually to 10 years post treatment

Background and Supporting Information

Includes the following tumors:

- Ependymal tumors
 - Supratentorial ependymoma
 - ZFTA fusion-positive Supratentorial ependymoma
 - YAP1 fusion-positive Posterior fossa ependymoma
 - Posterior fossa ependymoma, group
 - PFA Posterior fossa ependymoma, group PFB

General Considerations:

- Occur primarily intracranially, roughly two-thirds in the posterior fossa
- Overall prognosis is very good, with supratentorial tumors faring better
- Primary spinal tumors can also occur, and are more common in adult individuals than pediatric individuals.
- Surgery is the primary treatment modality
- Individuals with a complete resection should then be imaged according to surveillance guidelines
- Radiotherapy +/- chemotherapy is used for:
 - Incompletely resected tumors
 - Anaplastic histology
 - Infratentorial location
 - Individuals with incomplete resection or high-risk histology that receive adjuvant radiation therapy should then be imaged according to surveillance guidelines after end of radiotherapy imaging.
- Individuals with gain of chromosome 1q have worse progression-free survival and overall survival outcomes
- RELA-fusion supratentorial ependymoma did not portend worse overall survival outcomes in recent Clinical Oncology Group studies, and is generally not considered an indication for more frequent surveillance imaging

Malignant Tumors of the Spinal Cord (PEDONC-4.9)

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- If a disease-specific guideline exists, image according to the guidance found in that disease-specific guideline section.
- Common histologies of primary spinal cord tumor in children include:
 - Low-Grade Glioma, see: **CNS Low Grade Glioma (LGG) (PEDONC-4.2)** for guidelines
 - High-Grade Glioma, see: **CNS High-Grade Glioma (HGG) (PEDONC-4.3)** for guidelines
 - Ependymoma, see: **Ependymal Tumors (Ependymoma) (PEDONC-4.8)** for guidelines
 - NF 1 or 2, see **Neurofibromatosis 1 and 2 (NF1 and NF2) (PEDONC-2.3)** for guidelines
 - Any type of malignant spinal cord tumor can occur, but other histologies are rare.

For rare histologies that do not have a disease-specific guideline section, follow the imaging outlined in the table below.

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Initial staging for all individuals	• MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) • MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158)
In addition to the above imaging, for preoperative planning	• Functional MRI (fMRI) (CPT[®] 70555 or 70554) • For further perioperative indications, please refer to Neuronavigation (HD-28.2)
Treatment response, every 2 cycles	• MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158) • Additionally, MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) for known intracranial disease

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Signs or symptoms of recurrence or progression	• MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158) • Additionally, MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) for known intracranial disease
Surveillance of rare histologies is highly individualized. Surveillance imaging after recent evaluation by a physician with significant training and/or experience in pediatric spinal cord tumors (most commonly a pediatric neurosurgeon or pediatric oncologist) may be indicated in these rare individuals.	• MRI Brain and/or MRI Spine may be considered

Background and Supporting Information

- Treatment principles are the same as tumors of the brain, and should follow imaging guidelines according to the specific histologic type
- Multiple spinal cord tumors should raise suspicion for neurofibromatosis
- Asymptomatic surveillance imaging should generally end at the time point appropriate for the specific tumor type

Craniopharyngioma and Other Tumors of the Sellar Region (PEDONC-4.10)

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- Individuals of all ages should be imaged according to these guidelines.
- PET Brain Metabolic Imaging and MR Spectroscopy do not have a defined role in the evaluation of craniopharyngioma and are, therefore, considered not medically necessary.

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Initial staging for all individuals	• MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) ◦ Concurrent CT Head without contrast (CPT[®] 70450) in addition to MRI if craniopharyngioma is suspected
In addition to the above imaging, for preoperative planning	• Functional MRI (fMRI) (CPT[®] 70555 or 70554) • For further perioperative indications, please refer to Neuronavigation (HD-28.2)
• Additional initial staging for individuals with: ◦ Multicentric tumors ◦ Clinical signs or symptoms suggesting spinal cord involvement	• MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158)
Operative planning or image guidance	• MRA Head (CPT[®] 70544, 70545, or 70546) - OR • CTA Head (CPT[®] 70496)
Baseline imaging following resection	• MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553)
Completion of radiotherapy	• MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553)

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Treatment response to chemotherapy	MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) approved every 2 cycles during active treatment and at the end of planned chemotherapy
Additional treatment response imaging during induction chemotherapy for individuals with measurable spinal cord disease on MRI	MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158) every 2 cycles
Signs or symptoms of recurrence or progression	- MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) - Concurrent CT Head without contrast (CPT[®] 70450) in addition to MRI for craniopharyngioma - MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158) for signs or symptoms suggesting spinal cord involvement
Surveillance	- MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) can be approved every 3 months for 1 year, then every 4 months for 1 year, then every 6 months for 1 year, then annually until 10 years after completion of therapy as late progressions can occur - For additional imaging guidelines for individuals in long term follow up after CNS tumor treatment that included radiation therapy, see <u>Second Malignant Neoplasms (SMN) (PEDONC-19.3)</u>.
Suspected spinal cord recurrence	MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158)

Background and Supporting Information

Includes the following tumors:

- Craniopharyngioma
- Papillary craniopharyngioma
- Pituitary, granular cell tumor of the sellar region, and spindle cell oncocytoma
- PitNET
- Pituitary blastoma

General Considerations:

- Imaging guidelines and treatment approaches for pediatric pituitary tumors other than those listed above are consistent with those used for adults with pituitary tumors.
 - For these tumors, follow guidelines in **Pituitary, Sella, Hypothalamus (HD-19)** in the Head Imaging Guidelines.
- Craniopharyngiomas are less common, accounting for 6% to 8% of pediatric CNS tumors.
- Most commonly affects children in the pre-adolescent ages
- Several key imaging findings can be used to differentiate the tumors in this region, including the presence of calcifications, cysts, and T1/T2 enhancement patterns in craniopharyngiomas .
 - These are best evaluated using a COMBINATION of both MRI and CT modalities. Preoperative prediction is much more successful when BOTH modalities are obtained prior to biopsy.
- Other less common tumors in the optic chiasm, sella, and suprasella region may include Germ Cell Tumors (GCT, see: **PEDONC-4.7**) and Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis (LCH, see: **PEDONC-18**).

Treatment Considerations:

- Surgical resection is curative for many individuals
 - Those with a complete resection should then be imaged according to surveillance guidelines after post-resection imaging is completed.
- Individuals with incomplete resection and receiving adjuvant radiation therapy can have a single MRI Brain (CPT® 70553) approved at completion of radiotherapy and should then be imaged according to surveillance guidelines.

Primary CNS Lymphoma (PEDONC-4.11)

ONCP.CT.0004.11.A

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- Primary CNS lymphoma imaging indications in pediatric individuals are identical to those in the general imaging guidelines. See: **CNS Lymphoma (ONC-2.7)** in the Oncology Imaging Guidelines.
- CNS lymphomas also involving bone marrow and/or lymph nodes should be imaged according to: **Pediatric Aggressive Mature B-Cell Non-Hodgkin Lymphomas (NHL) (PEDONC-5.3)**.

Background and Supporting Information

- Primary CNS lymphoma is a solitary or multifocal mass occurring in the brain without evidence of systemic (bone marrow or lymph node) involvement.
- Usually associated with immunodeficiency, this is a very rare entity in pediatrics accounting for <0.1% of pediatric malignancies, so age-specific guidelines have not been established.

Meningiomas (PEDONC-4.12)

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- Meningioma imaging indications in pediatric individuals are identical to those in the general imaging guidelines
 - See: **Meningiomas (Intracranial and Intraspinal) (ONC-2.8)** in the Oncology Imaging Guidelines

Background and Supporting Information

- Account for 1% to 3% of pediatric CNS tumors
- Usually associated with neurofibromatosis type 2 (NF-2) or prior therapeutic radiation exposure to the brain
 - Lifetime risk may be as high as 20% for young children receiving whole brain radiotherapy, most commonly occurring 15 to 20 years after radiation exposure.

Choroid Plexus Tumors (PEDONC-4.13)

ONCP.CT.0004.13.A

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- PET Metabolic Brain imaging does not have a defined role in the evaluation of choroid plexus tumors and is, therefore, considered not medically necessary.

Choroid Plexus Papilloma:

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Suspected/Diagnosis	• MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT® 70553)
In addition to the above imaging, for preoperative planning	• Functional MRI (fMRI) (CPT® 70555 or 70554) • For further perioperative indications, please refer to Neuronavigation (HD-28.2)
Evaluation of a brain lesion of indeterminate nature when the MRS findings will be used to determine whether biopsy/resection can be safely postponed	• MR Spectroscopy (CPT® 76390)
Suspected return of hydrocephalus, or return of hydrocephalus seen on CT imaging	• MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT® 70553)

Choroid Plexus Adenoma or Atypical Choroid Plexus Papilloma:

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Suspected/Diagnosis	• MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT® 70553) • MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT® 72156, Thoracic-CPT® 72157, Lumbar-CPT® 72158)

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
In addition to the above imaging, for preoperative planning	- Functional MRI (fMRI) (CPT® 70555 or 70554) - For further perioperative indications, please refer to Neuronavigation (HD-28.2)
Evaluation of a brain lesion of indeterminate nature when the MRS findings will be used to determine whether biopsy/resection can be safely postponed	MR Spectroscopy (CPT® 76390)
Suspected return of hydrocephalus, or return of hydrocephalus seen on CT imaging	MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT® 70553)

Choroid Plexus Carcinoma:

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Initial staging of all individuals	- MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT® 70553) - MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT® 72156, Thoracic-CPT® 72157, Lumbar-CPT® 72158)
In addition to the above imaging, for preoperative planning	- Functional MRI (fMRI) (CPT® 70555 or 70554) - For further perioperative indications, please refer to Neuronavigation (HD-28.2)
Evaluation of a brain lesion of indeterminate nature when the MRS findings will be used to determine whether biopsy/resection can be safely postponed	MR Spectroscopy (CPT® 76390)
Baseline imaging following resection	MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT® 70553)
Prior to radiotherapy	MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT® 70553) and MRI with and without contrast of all known sites with measurable disease prior to radiotherapy.

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Completion of radiotherapy	MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553)
Treatment response to chemotherapy	MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) every 2 cycles during active treatment
Additional treatment response to chemotherapy for individuals with measurable spinal cord disease on MRI	MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158) every 2 cycles during active treatment
Prior to second-look surgery	MRI of all known sites of measurable disease
End of all planned therapy	- MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) - MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158)
Signs or symptoms of recurrence or progression	- MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) - MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158)
Surveillance, no history of spinal cord involvement	- MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) every 4 months for 3 years, then every 6 months for 2 years after completion of therapy, then annually to 10 years after treatment - For additional imaging guidelines for individuals in long term follow up after CNS tumor treatment that included radiation therapy, see Second Malignant Neoplasms (SMN) (PEDONC-19.3). - MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158) at 12 and 24 months after completion of therapy

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Surveillance, individuals with cord involvement at diagnosis	- MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) every 4 months for 3 years, then every 6 months for 2 years after completion of therapy, then annually to 10 years after treatment - For additional imaging guidelines for individuals in long term follow up after CNS tumor treatment that included radiation therapy, see Second Malignant Neoplasms (SMN) (PEDONC-19.3). - MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158) every 4 months for 3 years, then every 6 months for 2 years after completion of therapy, then annually to 10 years after treatment

Background and Supporting Information

As a group, choroid plexus papilloma, choroid plexus carcinoma and choroid plexus adenoma, or atypical choroid plexus papilloma account for 1% to 4% of pediatric CNS tumors, and 70% of choroid plexus tumors present within the first 2 years of life:

- Choroid plexus papillomas
 - Choroid plexus papillomas outnumber other choroid plexus tumors by 4 to 5 times.
 - These ventricular tumors commonly present with hydrocephalus caused by increased CSF production, resulting in signs of increased intracranial pressure.
 - Appearance on MRI is typical, and they are usually treated by excision.
 - Regrowth is rare.
- Choroid Plexus Adenoma or Atypical Choroid Plexus Papilloma
 - These are extremely rare tumors with features midway in the malignant spectrum between papillomas and carcinomas .
 - They are more prone to local invasion but rarely to metastasis .
 - Presenting symptoms are similar to papillomas .
 - Appearance on MRI is typical, and they are usually treated by excision.
 - Spinal imaging may be approved if requested at initial diagnosis.
 - Regrowth is rare.
- Choroid Plexus Carcinoma
 - This is a very aggressive malignancy, with high rates of metastasis to other parts of the CNS .

- Overall incidence of metastases in choroid plexus carcinoma is 12%–50%, which is associated with a worse outcome.
- Prognosis is significantly less favorable than for papillomas with overall survival rates of 35% to 40%
- *TP53* mutations and alternative lengthening telomeres (ALT) are common in individuals with choroid plexus carcinoma .
- Surgical gross total resection is curative for many individuals.
- Individuals with confirmed gross total resection should then be imaged according to surveillance guidelines.
- Individuals with incomplete resection who receive adjuvant radiation therapy should be imaged according to surveillance guidelines after end of radiotherapy imaging.
- MR Spectroscopy is not indicated for routine surveillance.

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Pediatric Lymphomas (PEDONC-5)

Guideline

Pediatric Lymphoma – General Considerations (PEDONC-5.1)

Pediatric Hodgkin Lymphoma (HL) (PEDONC-5.2)

Pediatric Aggressive Mature B-Cell Non-Hodgkin Lymphomas (NHL) (PEDONC-5.3)

Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma (ALCL) (PEDONC-5.4)

References (PEDONC-5)

Pediatric Lymphoma – General Considerations (PEDONC-5.1)

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- Lymphoma mostly commonly involves the lymph nodes (LNs). However, lymphoma can also arise from primary lymphoid tissues (bone marrow or thymus) or various secondary lymphoid tissues (spleen, mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue) or non-lymphoid organs (skin, bone, brain, lungs, liver, salivary glands, etc.).
- Pediatric lymphomas are generally Hodgkin Lymphomas, Aggressive B-Cell Non-Hodgkin Lymphomas, Lymphoblastic Lymphomas, or Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphomas
- Individuals with Lymphoblastic Lymphoma (even those with bulky nodal disease) are treated using the leukemia treatment plan appropriate to the cell type (B or T cell).
 - These individuals should be imaged using guidelines in **Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL) (PEDONC-3.2)**
- Other histologies are rare in pediatric individuals, and should be imaged according to the following guidelines:
 - Follicular lymphoma: **Follicular Lymphoma (ONC-27.3)** in the Oncology Imaging Guidelines
 - Marginal zone or MALT lymphomas: **Marginal Zone Lymphomas (ONC-27.4)** in the Oncology Imaging Guidelines
 - Mantle cell lymphomas: **Mantle Cell Lymphoma (ONC-27.5)** in the Oncology Imaging Guidelines
 - Cutaneous lymphomas: **Cutaneous Lymphomas and T Cell Lymphomas (ONC-27.8)** in the Oncology Imaging Guidelines
 - **Exception:** Cutaneous B-Lymphoblastic Lymphoma should be imaged using guidelines in **Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL) (PEDONC-3.2)**
 - Castleman's Disease: **Castleman's Disease (Unicentric and Multicentric) (ONC-31.11)** in the Oncology Imaging Guidelines
- All CT imaging recommended in this section refers to CT with contrast only.
 - Noncontrast CT imaging has not been shown to be beneficial in the management of pediatric lymphomas
 - Given the limited utility of noncontrast CT imaging in pediatric lymphomas, MRI without or without and with contrast is recommended in place of CT for individuals who cannot tolerate CT contrast due to allergy or impaired renal function.
- MRI without and with contrast of symptomatic or previously involved bony areas is medically necessary in individuals with known lymphoma without prior plain x-ray or bone scan evaluation.

- Bone scan is inferior to MRI for evaluation of known or suspected bone metastases in lymphoma.
- MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) is medically necessary as it is the preferred study for evaluation of suspected brain metastases in pediatric lymphoma.
 - CT Head with (CPT[®] 70460) or without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70470) is medically necessary when MRI is contraindicated.

Pediatric Hodgkin Lymphoma (HL) (PEDONC-5.2)

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Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Initial staging	ANY or ALL of the following: • CT Neck with contrast (CPT[®] 70491) ◦ MRI Neck without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70543) as a substitute for CT to limit radiation exposure if requested • CT Chest with contrast (CPT[®] 71260) ◦ MRI is not a substitution for CT Chest • CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177) ◦ MRI Abdomen without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74183) and MRI Pelvis (CPT[®] 72197) without and with contrast as substitute for CT to limit radiation exposure if requested • MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) for known CNS involvement or new signs or symptoms suggesting intracranial disease • PET/CT (CPT[®] 78815 or CPT[®] 78816) or PET/MRI (CPT[®] 78813 and CPT[®] 76498) ◦ Can be performed prior to biopsy if necessary for individual scheduling • CT or MRI of other body areas may be indicated for rare individuals based on physical findings or PET/CT results

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Restaging	• ALL of the following, as often as every 2 cycles of chemotherapy: ◦ CT of previously involved visceral areas ▪ In individuals on treatment for recurrent or refractory Hodgkin Lymphoma, all of the following: - CT Neck with contrast (CPT[®] 70491) - CT Chest with contrast (CPT[®] 71260) - CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177) ◦ MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) for known CNS involvement AND • After cycles 2 and 4* of chemotherapy and at end of therapy: ◦ PET/CT (CPT[®] 78815 or CPT[®] 78816) or PET/MRI (only using combination of CPT[®] 78813 and 76498) ▪ *For individuals with low-risk stage IA or IIA mixed cellularity Hodgkin lymphoma, this restaging PET/CT is medically necessary after cycles 1 and 3 (instead of cycles 2 and 4) if requested. End of therapy PET/CT or PET/MRI is medically necessary for all individuals with Hodgkin lymphoma. ◦ Diagnostic CT or MRI of previously involved areas may be combined with PET at end of therapy. • In addition to the above studies: ◦ If end of therapy PET/CT or PET/MRI done prior to radiation therapy documents Deauville 4 or 5 FDG avidity, one follow-up PET/CT (CPT[®] 78815 or CPT[®] 78816) or PET/MRI is medically necessary >12 weeks after radiation therapy to confirm complete response.
Surveillance for individuals with no history of recurrent HL	• Imaging studies are only medically necessary when relapse is clinically suspected, because most individuals will clinically declare themselves and there is no survival advantage in pre-emptive imaging. • Routine surveillance imaging is not medically necessary in individuals without a prior history of recurrent disease

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Surveillance, individuals with recurrent HL and no evidence of disease following successful treatment	- ALL of the following, every 3 months for 2 years after completing therapy for recurrence: - CT Neck with contrast (CPT[®] 70491) - CT Chest with contrast (CPT[®] 71260) - CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177)
Clarify inconclusive findings on conventional imaging suspicious for recurrence AND considering biopsy to establish recurrence	PET/CT (CPT[®] 78815 or CPT[®] 78816) or PET/MRI (CPT[®] 78813 and CPT[®] 76498)
Clinical symptoms suggesting recurrence	- MRI Brain with and without contrast (CPT[®] 70553) for known CNS involvement or new signs or symptoms suggesting intracranial disease AND either of the following sets of imaging: - Conventional imaging: - CT Neck with contrast (CPT[®] 70491) OR MRI Neck without and with (CPT[®] 70491) AND - CT Chest with contrast (CPT[®] 71260) AND - CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177) OR MRI Abdomen and MRI Pelvis without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74183 and CPT[®] 72197) AND - CT of other previously involved visceral areas or currently symptomatic areas OR - PET/CT (CPT[®] 78815 or 78816) or PET/MRI (CPT[®] 78813 and CPT[®] 76498)

Background and Supporting Information

- Most individuals experiencing recurrence are detected based on physical findings, and frequent CT surveillance imaging of Hodgkin Lymphoma after completion of therapy does not improve post-recurrence overall survival. The primary determinant of survival at recurrence is time to relapse, regardless of whether relapse is detected

clinically or via imaging. NCCN pediatric HL guidelines recommend no pre-emptive surveillance imaging.

- Pediatric individuals have a high rate of neck involvement with Hodgkin Lymphoma
- Early treatment response evaluations involve both PET and CT as decisions about chemotherapy drug selection and radiation treatment are frequently made based on both anatomic (CT-based) and metabolic (PET/CT-based) responses.
- Indications and coding for rare circumstances where PET/MRI may be approved are found in **PET imaging in Pediatric Oncology (PEDONC-1.4)**

Pediatric Aggressive Mature B-Cell Non-Hodgkin Lymphomas (NHL) (PEDONC-5.3)

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Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Initial staging	ANY or ALL of the following: - CT Neck with contrast (CPT[®] 70491) - MRI Neck without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70543) in place of CT Neck, if requested - CT Chest with contrast (CPT[®] 71260) - CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177) - MRI Abdomen without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74183) and MRI Pelvis without and with contrast (CPT[®] 72197) in place of CT Abdomen and Pelvis, if requested. - Abdominal ultrasound (CPT[®] 76700 or 76705) at initial presentation if CT/MRI not available. - CT with contrast or MRI without and with contrast any other symptomatic body area - PET/CT (CPT[®] 78815 or CPT[®] 78816) or PET/MRI (CPT[®] 78813 and CPT[®] 76498 [may be approved in addition to diagnostic CTs])
Additional initial staging if symptoms or extent of disease suggest intracranial extension or metastasis	MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553)
Additional initial staging if symptoms or extent of disease suggest intraspinal extension or metastasis (back pain)	- MRI of suspected spinal level involvement without and with contrast - MRI of whole spine without and with contrast if there is suspected leptomeningeal disease or if sedation will be required

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Restaging for treatment response	• ANY of the following, as often as every cycle of chemotherapy (~every 3 weeks): ◦ CT with contrast or MRI without and with contrast (should be same modality as initial diagnosis if possible) of previously involved areas ◦ PET/CT (CPT[®] 78815 or CPT[®] 78816) or PET/MRI (CPT[®] 78813 and CPT[®] 76498) until a negative PET is obtained ▪ Whole-body PET/CT (CPT[®] 78816) may be approved if there is clinical suspicion of, or known, skull or distal lower extremity involvement. ▪ PET/CT may be approved in conjunction with diagnostic CTs/MRIs, PET/CT should not replace imaging with contrast-enhanced diagnostic-quality CT or MRI.
Restaging for all subsequent treatment response, including end of therapy evaluation, after negative PET/CT (either Deauville or Lugano 1, 2 or 3 as reported in formal radiology interpretation)	• CT with contrast or MRI without and with contrast (should be same modality as initial diagnosis if possible) of previously involved areas, as often as every 2 cycles of chemotherapy, and at the end of therapy
End of therapy PET with Deauville 4-5 avidity	ONCE, at least 6-8 weeks after end of therapy PET: • PET/CT (CPT[®] 78815 or CPT[®] 78816) or PET/MRI (CPT[®] 78813 and CPT[®] 76498) OR • CT Neck, Chest, Abdomen, and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 70491, CPT[®] 71260, CPT[®] 74177)
Assessment of disease activity in inconclusive residual masses seen on conventional imaging	• PET/CT (CPT[®] 78815 or CPT[®] 78816) or PET/MRI (CPT[®] 78813 and CPT[®] 76498)

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Individuals being treated with Rituximab who present with abdominal pain, due to risk of bowel perforation and obstruction	- CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177) - US, x-ray, or other red flags are not required prior to CT
Surveillance of asymptomatic individuals with residual masses in the chest or abdomen and pelvis	Chest x-ray and Abdominal (CPT[®] 76700) and Pelvic (CPT[®] 76856) ultrasound 3 months after completion of therapy. If stable, no further imaging.
Clinical symptoms or laboratory findings suggesting recurrence	- MRI Brain without and with (CPT[®] 70553) for history of CNS involvement or new signs or symptoms suggesting intracranial disease In addition to the above imaging, ANY of the following: - CT Neck with contrast (CPT[®] 70491) and CT Chest with contrast (CPT[®] 71260) and CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177) and CT with contrast of other previously involved visceral areas or currently symptomatic areas (MRI with and without contrast in place of CT for all areas other than the chest if requested) and - PET/CT (CPT[®] 78815 or CPT[®] 78816) or PET/MRI (CPT[®] 78813 and CPT[®] 76498)
Suspected PTLN recurrence with documentation of new palpable nodes, rising LDH, or rising quantitative EBV PCR	PET/CT (CPT[®] 78815 or CPT[®] 78816) or PET/MRI (CPT[®] 78813 and CPT[®] 76498)

Background and Supporting Information

- Aggressive mature B-Cell NHL includes all of the following diagnoses, all of which should be imaged according to this section:
 - Burkitt's lymphoma/leukemia (BL)
 - Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma (DLBCL)
 - Primary Mediastinal Large B-Cell Lymphoma (PMBCL)

- Post-transplant Lymphoproliferative Disorder (PTLD)
 - most commonly occurs following solid organ or stem cell transplantation.
- Viral-associated lymphoproliferative disorders
 - most commonly occurs following hematopoietic stem cell transplantation or in individuals with primary immunodeficiency.
- Initial treatment is usually 7 days of low intensity therapy, with early response evaluation determining next steps in therapy using CT with contrast or MRI without and with contrast of previously involved areas performed around day 6
 - Individuals are customarily still inpatient for this evaluation so outpatient requests should be rare for this time point.
- Routine asymptomatic surveillance with advanced imaging has not been found to impact individual outcomes as the majority of these individuals present clinically at relapse due to the highly aggressive nature of these lymphomas.
- Indications and coding for rare circumstances where PET/MRI may be approved are found in **PET Imaging in Pediatric Oncology (PEDONC-1.4)**.

Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma (ALCL) (PEDONC-5.4)

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Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Initial staging	• ANY OR ALL of the following: ◦ CT Neck with contrast (CPT[®] 70491), CT Chest with contrast (CPT[®] 71260), and CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177) ◦ MRI without and with contrast of affected area ▪ Substituted for CT in cases of paraspinal or soft tissue extremity primary tumors ◦ CT with contrast or MRI without and with contrast any other symptomatic body area ◦ PET/CT (CPT[®] 78815 or CPT[®] 78816) or PET/MRI (CPT[®] 78813 and 76498)
Additional initial staging for individuals with bony primary tumors or metastatic disease	• Bone scan (See: Modality General Considerations (PEDONC-1.3))
Restaging at the end of induction chemotherapy (commonly 4 to 6 weeks)	• CT with contrast or MRI without and with contrast of previously involved areas (should be same modality as initial diagnosis if possible)

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Treatment response in individuals treated with cytotoxic chemotherapy	• Every 2 cycles: ◦ CT of previously involved areas ▪ If CT is performed for primary treatment response, PET/CT (CPT[®] 78815 or CPT[®] 78816) to clarify inconclusive findings detected on conventional imaging - OR ◦ PET/CT or PET/MRI (CPT[®] 78813 and CPT[®] 76498) until a negative PET is obtained ▪ If PET/CT (CPT[®] 78815 or CPT[®] 78816) is performed for primary treatment response, CT or MRI to clarify inconclusive findings detected on PET imaging
Restaging after negative PET/CT (either Deauville or Lugano 1, 2 or 3 as reported in formal radiology interpretation)	• CT with contrast of previously involved areas
Surveillance	• CT with contrast or MRI without and with contrast of all previously involved areas every 6 months for 2 years after completion of therapy.
Additional surveillance for individuals with bony primary tumors or metastatic disease	• Bone scan (See: Modality General Considerations (PEDONC-1.3) for coding) at 3, 6, 12, and 18 months after therapy is completed
Clinical symptoms suggesting recurrence	• CT Neck with contrast (CPT[®] 70491), CT Chest with contrast (CPT[®] 71260), CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177), and CT with contrast of other previously involved or currently symptomatic areas
Clarify inconclusive findings on conventional imaging to evaluate the need for biopsy to establish recurrence	• PET/CT (CPT[®] 78815 or CPT[®] 78816) or PET/MRI (CPT[®] 78813 and CPT[®] 76498)

Background and Supporting Information

- Similar in presentation to Hodgkin Lymphoma, and may be indistinguishable until immunocytology and molecular studies are complete.
- Indications and coding for rare circumstances where PET/MRI is medically necessary are found in **PET Imaging in Pediatric Oncology (PEDONC-1.4)**

References (PEDONC-5)

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Pediatric and Special Populations Oncology Imaging Guidelines (For Ohio Only):

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Neuroblastoma (PEDONC-6)

Guideline

Neuroblastoma – General Considerations (PEDONC-6.1)
Staging and Risk Grouping – Neuroblastoma (PEDONC-6.2)
Neuroblastoma – Initial Staging (PEDONC-6.3)
Neuroblastoma – Treatment Response Imaging (Risk Group Dependent)
(PEDONC-6.4)
Neuroblastoma – Surveillance Imaging (Risk Group Dependent) (PEDONC-6.5)
References (PEDONC-6)

Neuroblastoma – General Considerations (PEDONC-6.1)

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- **PEDONC-6** should be used to review neuroblastoma, ganglioneuroblastoma, and ganglioneuroma in individuals of all ages, with the exception of esthesioneuroblastoma in individuals of all ages, which should be reviewed using **Squamous Cell Carcinomas of the Head and Neck (ONC-3)** in the Oncology Imaging Guidelines.
- Neuroblastoma is divided into very low, low, intermediate, and high-risk disease based on International Neuroblastoma Risk Group (INRG) Staging System (see: **Staging and Risk Grouping – Neuroblastoma (PEDONC-6.2)**). The treatment approaches for each risk group vary widely and have distinct imaging strategies. The risk group for a given individual should be provided by the ordering provider in the clinical information provided for review.
- For metabolic imaging in individuals who are MIBG positive at diagnosis and then become MIBG negative in response to treatment:
 - Continue to use MIBG (see: table below and **PEDONC-1.3** for coding)

Study Type	Coding
Bone scan	▪ ANY of the following codes are medically necessary : - CPT[®] 78300 - CPT[®] 78305 - CPT[®] 78306 - CPT[®] 78803, 78830, or 78832 • In addition to the above imaging, ANY of the following are medically necessary: : ◦ CPT[®] 78305 ◦ CPT[®] 78306

Study Type	Coding
¹²³ I-metaiodobenzylguanidine (MIBG) scintigraphy	▪ ONE of the following codes is medically necessary : - CPT[®] 78801 - CPT[®] 78802 - CPT[®] 78804 ▪ In addition to the above imaging ONE of the following codes is medically necessary: - CPT[®] 78803 - CPT[®] 78830 - CPT[®] 78831 - CPT[®] 78832 OR ▪ CPT[®] 78800 is medically necessary for KNOWN neuroblastoma when only a single site follow up is desired, but is not sufficient for the initial workup of suspected disease.
Octreotide scan	▪ Same coding as MIBG
Gallium scan	▪ Same coding as MIBG

- MIBG remains the standard of care metabolic imaging in neuroblastoma, 18F-FDG-PET-CT is not medically necessary unless one of the exceptions below is present. **All PET imaging in PEDONC-6 refers to 18F-FDG radiotracer.** All other radiotracers are considered not medically necessary at this time:

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
• Any of the following: ◦ individuals with MIBG-negativity documented at initial diagnosis ◦ individuals with discordant findings on MIBG and conventional imaging (i.e., it is suspected there is more active disease than is visible on MIBG) ◦ at major decision points (such as hematopoietic stem cell transplant or surgery), if MIBG and CT/MRI findings are inconclusive	• Whole-body 18F-FDG PET/CT (CPT[®] 78816) • In scenarios where PET/CT is supported, it does not preclude the other diagnostic imaging studies supported throughout PEDONC-6. PET/CT is viewed as replacing MIBG in these scenarios. Indications and coding for rare circumstances where PET/MRI is medically necessary are found in PET Imaging in Pediatric Oncology (PEDONC-1.4)

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
- Individuals currently receiving medications that may interfere with MIBG uptake that cannot be safely discontinued prior to imaging, including: - tricyclic antidepressants (amitriptyline, imipramine, etc.) - selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRI's, sertraline, paroxetine, escitalopram, etc.) - neuroleptics (risperidone, haloperidol, etc.) - antihypertensive drugs (alpha or beta blockers, calcium channel blockers) - decongestants (phenylephrine, ephedrine, pseudoephedrine) - stimulants (methylphenidate, dextroamphetamine, etc.)	18F-FDG PET/CT (CPT[®] 78816) is only medically necessary when specific documentation of the medication interaction is included with the current PET imaging request. - Indications and coding for rare circumstances where PET/MRI is medically necessary are found in <u>PET Imaging in Pediatric Oncology (PEDONC-1.4)</u>

Background and Supporting Information

- Neuroblastoma is the most common extracranial solid tumor of childhood, and generally arises from the adrenal gland or along the sympathetic chain. Neuroblastoma staging has recently changed to better incorporate the prognostic impact of biological and genetic characteristics, particularly segmental chromosome aberrations (SCA) as an additional genomic marker. SCAs of 1p or 11g are poor prognostic indicators.
- 90% to 95% of neuroblastomas secrete homovanillic acid (HVA) and vanillylmandelic acid (VMA) in the urine, and urine HVA/VMA should be performed at every disease evaluation for individuals with positive HVA or VMA at diagnosis
- 99mTc-MDP bone scan does not identify foci of disease that affect staging or clinical management and provides no advantage over MIBG scintigraphy and is not used for evaluation of most individuals with neuroblastoma

Staging and Risk Grouping – Neuroblastoma (PEDONC-6.2)

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- Most recent treatment protocols are using the updated International Neuroblastoma Risk Group (INRG) staging system
 - L1: Localized tumor not involving vital structures as defined by the list of image-defined risk factors and confined to one body compartment
 - Image-defined risk factors include a list of specific imaging findings defining individuals less likely to be candidates for complete surgical resection
 - These risk factors involve the encasement of major blood vessels, airway, skull base, costovertebral junction, brachial plexus, spinal canal, or major organs or structures
 - L2: Locoregional tumor with presence of one or more image-defined risk factors
 - M: Distant metastatic disease (except stage MS)
 - MS: Metastatic disease in children younger than 18 months with metastases confined to skin, liver, and/or bone marrow with <10% involvement (MIBG must be negative in bone and bone marrow)
- The risk group for any given individual should be provided or documented by the requesting provider.

Neuroblastoma – Initial Staging (PEDONC-6.3)

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The following imaging studies are medically necessary in the initial staging of individuals with neuroblastoma, ganglioneuroblastoma, or ganglioneuroma:

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Initial staging for all individuals	¹²³I-metaiodobenzylguanidine scintigraphy (see table in Neuroblastoma – General Considerations (PEDONC-6.1) for MIBG coding details) AND - ONE of the following sets of imaging: - CT Neck with contrast (CPT[®] 70491), CT Chest with contrast (CPT[®] 71260), and CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177) OR - MRI Neck without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70543), MRI Chest without and with contrast (CPT[®] 71552), and MRI Abdomen and Pelvis without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74183 and CPT[®] 72197)
- All individuals with paraspinal tumors - Individuals with back pain or cord compression symptoms	In addition to the above imaging: MRI Cervical (CPT[®] 72156), Thoracic (CPT[®] 72157), and Lumbar (CPT[®] 72158) spine without and with contrast
Evaluation of suspected adrenal neuroblastoma, ganglioneuroblastoma, or ganglioneuroma when CT or MRI is inconclusive for an adrenal lesion.	Adrenal nuclear imaging (CPT[®] 78075)

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Clinical signs/symptoms suggest brain and/or orbital involvement	ANY of the following: • MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT® 70553) • CT Head with contrast (CPT® 70470) • CT Orbits/Maxillofacial with contrast (CPT® 70487)

- PET should not be used unless one of the exceptions stated in section **Neuroblastoma – General Considerations (PEDONC-6.1)** is present.

Background and Supporting Information

- MIBG provides superior sensitivity and sensitivity for detecting viable osseous disease compared with bone scintigraphy so technetium bone scan is not necessary when MIBG is utilized. MIBG is positive in 90% to 95% of neuroblastomas.
 - Most MIBG imaging studies are SPECT/CT studies using CT for localization only. Separate diagnostic CT codes should not be approved for this purpose.
 - Occasionally MIBG cannot be performed prior to initiation of therapy. In this circumstance, MIBG should be completed within 3 weeks of therapy initiation as the reduction in MIBG avidity in response to chemotherapy is not immediate. Inability to complete MIBG before starting therapy is not an indication to approve PET imaging.

Neuroblastoma – Treatment Response Imaging (Risk Group Dependent) (PEDONC-6.4)

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- Risk Grouping will not be known at the time of initial staging, but is critical for all imaging decisions after initial staging is complete. **The treating oncologist should always know the individual's risk grouping.** It is not possible to establish the appropriate imaging plan for a neuroblastoma individual without knowing his/her risk group.

All Very Low Risk and Low Risk Neuroblastoma Not Receiving Chemotherapy:

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
All individuals, no sooner than 4 weeks after diagnosis to determine if additional treatment is necessary	- CT with contrast or MRI without and with contrast of the primary tumor site. If primary tumor site is abdomen or pelvis, imaging of both sites is medically necessary. - Ultrasound is medically necessary if requested in place of CT or MRI to avoid radiation and/or anesthesia exposure in low risk individuals

Background and Supporting Information

- Many individuals will be treated with surgical resection only without adjuvant therapy, and these individuals enter immediately into surveillance.

All Intermediate Risk Neuroblastoma and Very Low Risk or Low Risk Neuroblastoma Receiving Chemotherapy:

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Prior to surgical resection	- Restaging imaging (MIBG and CT or MRI, as performed at initial diagnosis) - PET/CT or PET/MRI if exceptions noted in PEDONC-6.1 are met. - Additional imaging for individuals with paraspinal disease: - MRI without and with contrast of the whole spine (CPT® 72156, CPT® 72157, and CPT® 72158)
Treatment response, as often as every 2 cycles of chemotherapy (~every 6 weeks and at the end of planned treatment)	- CT Chest with contrast (CPT® 71260) and CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT® 74177) OR - MRI Neck (CPT® 70543) without and with contrast, MRI Chest without and with contrast (CPT® 71552), and MRI Abdomen and Pelvis without and with contrast (CPT® 74183 and CPT® 72197) AND - CT or MRI of other sites with prior measurable disease - Additional imaging for individuals with paraspinal disease: - MRI without and with contrast of the whole spine (CPT® 72156, CPT® 72157, and CPT® 72158)
In addition to treatment response listed above, every 4 cycles, and at the end of planned chemotherapy treatment	- MIBG scan (see table in Neuroblastoma - General Considerations (PEDONC-6.1) for MIBG coding details) 18F-FDG PET/CT or PET/MRI if exceptions noted in PEDONC-6.1 are met

Background and Supporting Information

- Individuals generally receive 2 to 12 cycles of moderate-intensity chemotherapy depending on response to treatment.

- Surgical resection may occur prior to or following chemotherapy depending on disease stage. Restaging prior to surgery is appropriate.

High-Risk Neuroblastoma:

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
• ANY of the following: ◦ Treatment response ▪ As often as every 2 cycles of chemotherapy, mAb, or biologic therapy (~every 6 weeks) ◦ Change in modality ▪ Prior to surgery, HSCT, XRT, or mAb therapy ◦ End of therapy	• CT Chest with contrast (CPT® 71260) and CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT® 74177) - OR • MRI Neck (CPT® 70543) without and with contrast, MRI Chest without and with contrast (CPT® 71552), and MRI Abdomen and Pelvis without and with contrast (CPT® 74183 and CPT® 72197) - AND • CT or MRI of other sites with prior measurable disease • Additional imaging for individuals with paraspinal disease: ◦ MRI without and with contrast of the whole spine (CPT® 72156, CPT® 72157, and CPT® 72158) • MIBG scan (see table in Neuroblastoma - General consideration (PEDONC-6.1) for MIBG coding details)
At completion of ¹³¹ I-MIBG therapy	• ¹²³I-MIBG scan ◦ FDG-PET cannot be used after ¹³¹I-MIBG therapy
Preoperative planning	• More frequent imaging with any of the above modalities can be approved around the time of surgery if needed

Background and Supporting Information

- This group of individuals receives highly aggressive therapy using sequential chemotherapy, surgery, high dose chemotherapy with stem cell rescue, radiotherapy, monoclonal antibody (mAb) immunotherapy, and biologic therapy.

Neuroblastoma – Surveillance Imaging (Risk Group Dependent) (PEDONC-6.5)

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Very Low Risk and Low Risk Neuroblastoma:

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
All individuals	- At 3, 6, 9, 12, 18, 24, 30 and 36 months after surgery: - Ultrasound of involved areas OR 3, 6, 9, 12, 18, 24, 30 and 36 months after surgery or to clarify unclear findings on ultrasound: - CT with contrast or MRI without and with contrast of the primary tumor site
Clarification of findings on CT or MRI suspicious for disease recurrence	- MIBG (see table in Neuroblastoma - General Considerations (PEDONC-6.1) for MIBG coding details) 18F-FDG PET/CT or PET/MRI if exceptions noted in PEDONC-6.1 are met.

Intermediate Risk Neuroblastoma:

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
All individuals	- Every 3 months for 1 year, then every 6 months for 1 year, and then at 36 months after surgery: - CT with contrast or MRI without and with contrast of the primary tumor - If the primary tumor is paraspinal: - MRI without and with contrast of the whole spine (CPT® 72156, CPT® 72157, and CPT® 72158) - If primary site is abdomen or pelvis, both body sites are medically necessary (CPT® 74177 or the combination of CPT® 71297 and CPT® 74183) - If negative at 36 months, ultrasound at 48 and 60 months after surgery to complete 5 years surveillance.

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Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
- BOTH of the following: - Individuals with stage 4, or M disease, or 4S, or MS disease AND - Positive MIBG at completion of therapy	- Until a negative scan is achieved, every 3 months in year 1, then once in year 2 and year 3: - MIBG scan (see table in Neuroblastoma – General Considerations (PEDONC-6.1) for MIBG coding details) - Once a negative MIBG is achieved, no further MIBG imaging is necessary. - MIBG is not medically necessary for all other intermediate risk individuals. 18F-FDG PET/CT or PET/MRI if exceptions noted in PEDONC-6.1 are met.

High Risk Neuroblastoma:

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
All individuals	- Every 3 months for 1 year, then every 6 months for 1 year, and then annually to complete 6 years surveillance: - CT with contrast or MRI without and with contrast of the primary tumor site AND - MIBG scan (see table in Neuroblastoma – General Considerations (PEDONC-6.1) for MIBG coding details) 18F-FDG PET/CT or PET/MRI if exceptions noted in PEDONC-6.1 are met - If primary site is abdomen or pelvis, both body sites are medically necessary (CPT® 74177 or the combination of CPT® 71297 and CPT® 74183) - For history of paraspinal disease, MRI without and with contrast of the whole spine (CPT® 72156, CPT® 72157, and CPT® 72158) - If negative at 6 years, no further advanced imaging.

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Suspected recurrence	- CT Chest/Abdomen/Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 71260, and CPT[®] 74177) or MRI without and with contrast, (CPT[®] 71552, CPT[®] 74183, and CPT[®] 72197) and other sites of prior measurable disease or current symptoms - MRI Brain with and without contrast (CPT[®] 70553) for signs or symptoms of brain involvement - MRI without and with contrast of the whole spine (CPT[®] 72156, CPT[®] 72157, and CPT[®] 72158) for history of paraspinal disease, back pain, or cord compression symptoms. - MIBG scan (see table in Neuroblastoma - General Considerations (PEDONC-6.1) for MIBG coding details) 18F-FDG PET/CT or PET/MRI if exceptions noted in PEDONC-6.1 are met.

Background and Supporting Information

- Very Low Risk and Low Risk Neuroblastoma:
 - CT Chest is not indicated in asymptomatic surveillance imaging of any stages of neuroblastoma individuals with no prior history of thoracic disease
- High-Risk Neuroblastoma:
 - Early detection of recurrence with ¹²³I-MIBG has been shown to improve post-relapse outcomes in high-risk neuroblastoma

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Pediatric Renal Tumors (PEDONC-7)

Guideline

Pediatric Renal Tumors – General Considerations (PEDONC-7.1)
Unilateral Wilms Tumor (UWT) (PEDONC-7.2)
Bilateral Wilms Tumor (BWT) (PEDONC-7.3)
Pediatric Renal Cell Carcinoma (RCC) (PEDONC-7.4)
Clear Cell Sarcoma of the Kidney (CCSK) (PEDONC-7.5)
Malignant Rhabdoid Tumor of the Kidney (MRT) and Other Extracranial Sites (PEDONC-7.6)
Congenital Mesoblastic Nephroma (CMN) (PEDONC-7.7)
References (PEDONC-7)

Pediatric Renal Tumors – General Considerations (PEDONC-7.1)

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- Ultrasound is considered first-line imaging for suspected pediatric renal mass, given the lack of radiation exposure and need for sedation. Advanced imaging for suspected Wilms Tumor should be done after initial assessment with ultrasound, which has often been completed prior to diagnosis.
- A variety of tumors can occur in the pediatric kidney, and include the following:
 - Wilms Tumor
 - Favorable Histology (FHWT)
 - Focal Anaplasia (FAWT)
 - Diffuse Anaplasia (DAWT)
 - Bilateral Wilms Tumor (BWT)
 - Renal Cell Carcinoma (RCC)
 - Clear Cell Sarcoma of the Kidney (CCSK)
 - Malignant Rhabdoid Tumor of the Kidney (MRT)
 - Congenital Mesoblastic Nephroma (CMN)
 - Other cancers occurring in the kidney:
 - Neuroblastoma
 - Primitive Neuroectodermal Tumor
 - Rhabdomyosarcoma
 - Non-Rhabdomyosarcoma Soft Tissue Sarcomas
 - These and other rare tumors have been reported occurring primarily in the kidney and should be imaged according to the guidelines for the specific histologic diagnosis.
- For suspected renal tumor, cell type unknown, image according to **Pediatric Renal Cell Carcinoma (RCC) (PEDONC-7.4)**
- PET is not routinely medically necessary for initial staging, treatment response, or surveillance of any pediatric renal tumor - rare circumstances for exceptions are listed in the relevant guideline sections.

Unilateral Wilms Tumor (UWT) (PEDONC-7.2)

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Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Initial Staging	ONE of the following: - MRI Abdomen and Pelvis without and with contrast (CPT® 74183 and CPT® 72197) OR - CT Abdomen with contrast (CPT® 74160) or CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT® 74177) - Doppler ultrasound to evaluate for tumor thrombus is not medically necessary unless CT findings are inconclusive AND - CT Chest with (CPT® 71260) or without contrast (CPT® 71250) - Should be completed prior to anesthesia exposure if possible - PET is not routinely medically necessary in the initial staging of any pediatric renal tumor
Bilateral renal lesions noted on ultrasound or CT	MRI Abdomen (CPT® 74183) and Pelvis (CPT® 72197) without and with contrast
Additional initial staging imaging for any individual with neurologic signs or symptoms raising suspicion of CNS metastases	MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT® 70553)
Additional initial staging imaging for any individual with signs or symptoms raising suspicion of bony metastases	Bone scan (see: PEDONC-1.3 for coding)

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Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Treatment response ~every 2 cycles during treatment and at the end of planned therapy	- CT Chest with (CPT[®] 71260) <i>or</i> without contrast (CPT[®] 71250) - CT Abdomen with contrast (CPT[®] 74160) or CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177) or MRI Abdomen (CPT[®] 74183) and Pelvis (CPT[®] 72197) without and with contrast
Rare circumstances to establish the presence of active disease only when a major therapeutic decision depends on PET avidity	PET/CT (CPT[®] 78815)
Surveillance	- CT Chest with contrast (CPT[®] 71260) or CT Chest without contrast (CPT[®] 71250), or chest x-ray AND CT Abdomen with contrast (CPT[®] 74160) or Abdominal US (CPT[®] 76700) - Every 3 months for 2 years, then every 6 months for 2 additional years, to complete 4 years surveillance - In addition, pelvic imaging (CT or ultrasound) for individuals with stage II or higher disease, for individuals treated with nephrectomy only, or for individuals with a history of tumor rupture, known pelvic involvement, diffuse anaplastic histology, or a history of disease recurrence.
There are no data to support the use of PET imaging for routine surveillance in any individual with Wilms tumor.	

Background and Supporting Information

- Many individuals will present with an asymptomatic abdominal mass, and will undergo ultrasound as a primary evaluation.
- Only ~0.5% of individuals with Wilms tumor will ever develop brain metastases
- A very low risk subset of stage I FHWT will be observed after nephrectomy, and enter directly into surveillance.
- The majority of individuals will receive chemotherapy with or without XRT, beginning within 14 days of initial surgery.

Bilateral Wilms Tumor (BWT) (PEDONC-7.3)

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Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Initial Staging	ONE of the following: - MRI Abdomen and Pelvis without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74183 and CPT[®] 72197) OR - CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177) - CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177) is often performed prior to discovery of bilateral lesions and should not prevent MRI from being approved if requested - Doppler ultrasound to evaluate for tumor thrombus is not medically necessary unless CT findings are inconclusive AND - CT Chest with (CPT[®] 71260) or without contrast (CPT[®] 71250) - Should be completed prior to anesthesia exposure if possible - PET is not routinely medically necessary in the initial staging of any pediatric renal tumor
Additional initial staging imaging for any individual with neurologic signs or symptoms raising suspicion of CNS metastases	MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553)

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Additional initial staging imaging for any individual with signs or symptoms raising suspicion of bony metastases	Bone scan (see: PEDONC-1.3 for coding)
Treatment response ~every 2 cycles during treatment and at the end of planned therapy	- MRI Abdomen and Pelvis without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74183 and CPT[®] 72197) - CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177) for individuals with a contraindication to MRI - CT Chest with (CPT[®] 71260) or without contrast (CPT[®] 71250)
Rare circumstances to establish the presence of active disease only when a major therapeutic decision depends on PET avidity	PET/CT (CPT[®] 78815)
Surveillance	- Every 3 months for 2 years, then every 6 months for 2 additional years, to complete 4 years surveillance: - CT Chest with contrast (CPT[®] 71260) or CT Chest without contrast (CPT[®] 71250) or chest x-ray AND - CT Abdomen with contrast (CPT[®] 74160) or Abdominal US (CPT[®] 76700) - Pelvic imaging (CT or ultrasound) for individuals with stage II or higher disease, individuals treated with nephrectomy only, or individuals with a history of tumor rupture, diffuse anaplastic histology, known pelvic involvement, or a history of disease recurrence.
PET is not routinely medically necessary to assess treatment response or for surveillance in Wilms tumor.	

Background and Supporting Information

- Many individuals will present with an asymptomatic abdominal mass, and will undergo ultrasound as a primary evaluation.
- Individuals with bilateral Wilms Tumor may begin therapy without a histologic diagnosis to preserve a localized disease stage and attempt to shrink the tumors to allow for renal-sparing surgical approaches.
- Only ~0.5% of Wilms tumor individuals will ever develop brain metastases
- If treating with chemotherapy without a biopsy, disease evaluation is indicated at week 6. If either tumor has not shrunk 50%, then open biopsy is indicated to confirm favorable histology.
- If partial nephrectomy still not feasible at week 6, the next disease evaluation is at week 12. Surgical resection should occur no later than week 12.

Pediatric Renal Cell Carcinoma (RCC) (PEDONC-7.4)

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Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Initial Staging	- CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177) - If bilateral renal lesions are noted on ultrasound or CT, MRI Abdomen and Pelvis without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74183 and CPT[®] 72197) should be strongly considered - CT Chest with (CPT[®] 71260) or without contrast (CPT[®] 71250) - Should be completed prior to anesthesia exposure if possible - PET scan is not routinely medically necessary in the initial staging of any pediatric renal tumor
Additional initial staging for any individual with neurologic signs or symptoms raising suspicion of CNS metastases	MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553)
Additional initial staging for any individual with signs or symptoms raising suspicion of bony metastases	Bone scan (See: PEDONC-1.3 for coding)
Treatment response in individuals with residual measurable disease after initial surgery and receiving adjuvant medical therapy	- Every 2 cycles during active treatment: - CT Chest with (CPT[®] 71260) or without contrast (CPT[®] 71250) and - CT Abdomen with contrast (CPT[®] 74160) - Pelvic imaging is not medically necessary unless prior pelvic involvement has been documented

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Rare circumstances to establish the presence of active disease only when a major therapeutic decision depends on PET avidity	- PET/CT (CPT[®] 78815) - Indications and coding for rare circumstances where PET/MRI is medically necessary are found in <u>PET Imaging in Pediatric Oncology (PEDONC-1.4)</u>
Surveillance in individuals with documented CNS metastases	- Every 6 months for 2 years after completion of all therapy: - MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553)
Surveillance in individuals with TFE3 or TFEB subtype	- Every 3 months for 2 years, then every 6 months for 2 years after completion of all therapy: - CT Chest with (CPT[®] 71260) or without contrast (CPT[®] 71250) - CT Abdomen with contrast (CPT[®] 74160) or MRI Abdomen without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74183) - Pelvic imaging is not medically necessary for surveillance unless prior pelvic involvement has been documented
Surveillance in all other histologies	See: <u>Renal Cell Cancer (RCC) – Surveillance (ONC-17.4)</u>
New signs/symptoms suggestive of CNS recurrence	MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553)
PET is not routinely utilized to assess treatment response in pediatric RCC.	

Background and Supporting Information

- A majority of pediatric cases have a novel subtype involving TFE3 or TFEB translocations, which have a different natural history than “adult type” RCC
- Individuals of any age with TFE3 or TFEB translocated RCC should be imaged according to this guideline section.
- 40% to 45% of pediatric RCC cases have similar histologies to adult RCC (clear cell, papillary, chromophobe, etc.) and imaging decisions will be similar to general oncology guidelines.
- Individuals with all other subtypes of RCC should be imaged according to **Renal Cell Cancer (RCC) (ONC-17)** in the Oncology Imaging Guidelines

- Many individuals will present with an asymptomatic abdominal mass, and will undergo ultrasound as a primary evaluation. Doppler ultrasound to evaluate for tumor thrombus is no longer necessary unless CT findings are inconclusive, and should not be performed if CT is already completed.
- Other staging imaging than what is stated in the above table should be deferred until a histologic diagnosis is made, by complete nephrectomy for most unilateral renal tumors and biopsy for bilateral renal tumors or inoperable unilateral tumors
- Most individuals will have surgical resection of all disease at the time of diagnosis and will enter directly into surveillance

Clear Cell Sarcoma of the Kidney (CCSK) (PEDONC-7.5)

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Be careful not to confuse the diagnosis with clear cell RCC. See: Renal Cell Cancer (RCC) (ONC-17) for imaging guidelines.

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Initial Staging	- CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177) - Doppler ultrasound to evaluate for tumor thrombus is not medically necessary unless CT findings are inconclusive - CT Chest with (CPT[®] 71260) or without contrast (CPT[®] 71250) - Should be completed prior to anesthesia exposure if possible - Bone scan (see: PEDONC-1.3 for coding) - MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) - PET is not routinely considered medically necessary in the initial staging of any pediatric renal tumor
Bilateral renal lesions are noted on ultrasound or CT in initial staging	MRI Abdomen and Pelvis without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74183 and CPT[®] 72197)
Treatment response ~every 2 cycles during treatment and at the end of planned therapy	- CT Chest with (CPT[®] 71260) or without contrast (CPT[®] 71250) - CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177) or MRI Abdomen and Pelvis without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74183 and CPT[®] 72197) - Additionally, for individuals with CNS metastases at initial staging: - MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) - Bone scan (see: Modality General Considerations (PEDONC-1.3) for coding) at the end of planned therapy

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Rare circumstances to establish the presence of active disease only when a major therapeutic decision depends on PET avidity	- PET/CT (CPT[®] 78815) - Indications and coding for rare circumstances where PET/MRI is medically necessary are found in <u>PET Imaging in Pediatric Oncology (PEDONC-1.4)</u>
Surveillance	- Every 3 months for 2 years after completion of all therapy: - CT Chest with (CPT[®] 71260) <i>or</i> without contrast (CPT[®] 71250) - CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177) <i>or</i> MRI Abdomen and Pelvis without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74183 and CPT[®] 72197) - Every 6 months for 3 years after completion of all therapy: - MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) - Every 3 months for 1 year, then every 6 months for 2 years after completion of all therapy: - Bone scan (see: <u>Modality General Considerations (PEDONC-1.3)</u> for coding) - If negative at 36 months, no further advanced imaging. - Other surveillance imaging should be by Abdominal US (CPT[®] 76700) and chest x-ray

Background and Supporting Information

- Many individuals will present with an asymptomatic abdominal mass, and will undergo ultrasound as a primary evaluation.
- Other staging imaging should be deferred until a histologic diagnosis is made, by complete nephrectomy for most unilateral renal tumors and biopsy for bilateral renal tumors or inoperable unilateral tumors

Malignant Rhabdoid Tumor of the Kidney (MRT) and Other Extracranial Sites (PEDONC-7.6)

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Be careful not to confuse the diagnosis with rhabdomyosarcoma. See: **Rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS) (PEDONC-8.2)** for Imaging Guidelines

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Initial Staging	- CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT® 74177) - Doppler ultrasound to evaluate for tumor thrombus is not medically necessary unless CT findings are inconclusive - CT Chest with (CPT® 71260) or without contrast (CPT® 71250) - Should be completed prior to anesthesia exposure if possible - Bone scan (see: PEDONC-1.3 for coding) - MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT® 70553) - PET is not routinely medically necessary in the initial staging of any pediatric renal tumor
Bilateral renal lesions are noted on ultrasound or CT in initial staging	MRI Abdomen and Pelvis without and with contrast (CPT® 74183 and CPT® 72197)

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Treatment response ~every 2 cycles during treatment and at the end of planned therapy	- CT Chest with (CPT[®] 71260) or CT Chest without contrast (CPT[®] 71250) - CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177) or MRI Abdomen and Pelvis without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74183 and CPT[®] 72197) - If primary site other than kidney, perform CT with contrast or MRI without and with contrast of primary site in place of abdominal and pelvic imaging - MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553): - Every 2 cycles during treatment for individuals with CNS metastases at initial staging - At the end of planned therapy for all individuals - Bone scan (see: PEDONC-1.3 for coding) at the end of planned therapy only if positive at initial diagnosis
Rare circumstances to establish the presence of active disease only when a major therapeutic decision depends on PET avidity	- PET/CT (CPT[®] 78815) - Indications and coding for rare circumstances where PET/MRI is medically necessary are found in PET Imaging in Pediatric Oncology (PEDONC-1.4)

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Surveillance	• Every 3 months for 2 years after completion of all therapy: ◦ CT Chest with (CPT[®] 71260) or without contrast (CPT[®] 71250) • Every 3 months for 3 years after completion of all therapy: ◦ CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177) or MRI Abdomen and Pelvis without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74183 and CPT[®] 72197) ▪ If primary site other than kidney, perform CT with contrast or MRI without and with contrast of primary site in place of abdominal imaging • Every 3 months for 1 year, then every 6 months for 1 year after completion of all therapy: ◦ MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) • If bone scan positive at initial diagnosis: ◦ Every 3 months for 1 year, then every 6 months for 2 years: ▪ Bone scan (see: PEDONC-1.3 for coding) ◦ If negative at 36 months, no further advanced imaging • The role of surveillance imaging beyond these timeframes is unclear. Abdominal US (CPT[®] 76700) and chest x-ray may be considered.
Continued surveillance of individuals with rhabdoid tumor predisposition syndrome	• See: <u>Rhabdoid Tumor Predisposition Syndrome (PEDONC-2.11)</u>

Background and Supporting Information

- MRT is a highly aggressive histologic variant that can also occur in other locations and all non-CNS sites should follow these guidelines.
- Primary CNS rhabdoid malignancies should be imaged according to **Atypical Teratoid/Rhabdoid Tumors (ATRT) PEDONC-4.5)**
- Many individuals will present with an asymptomatic abdominal mass, and will undergo ultrasound as a primary evaluation.
- Other staging imaging should be deferred until a histologic diagnosis is made, by complete nephrectomy for most unilateral renal tumors and biopsy for bilateral renal tumors or inoperable unilateral tumors

Congenital Mesoblastic Nephroma (CMN) (PEDONC-7.7)

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Congenital Mesoblastic Nephroma Initial Staging

- CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177) is medically necessary in all individuals
- CT Chest with (CPT[®] 71260) is medically necessary to evaluate inconclusive findings on chest x-ray

Congenital Mesoblastic Nephroma Treatment Response

- CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177) is medically necessary once following resection to establish baseline imaging, and those with a complete resection should then be imaged according to surveillance guidelines
- CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177) is medically necessary for individuals receiving preoperative chemotherapy every 2 cycles of therapy until surgery and then should be imaged according to surveillance guidelines after their postoperative baseline imaging study

Congenital Mesoblastic Nephroma Surveillance Imaging

- Ultrasound is medically necessary as it is the preferred surveillance imaging modality to avoid radiation and anesthesia exposures
- CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177) **or** MRI Abdomen and Pelvis without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74183 and CPT[®] 72197) is medically necessary for residual abnormalities present on post-operative imaging or inconclusive findings on ultrasound every 3 months for 1 year after completion of all therapy

Background and Supporting Information

- This is the most common primary renal tumor occurring in young infants, and the overall prognosis is very good
- Complete surgical removal is curative in most cases, and histologically confirmed metastatic disease or bilateral disease has never been reported
- Many individuals will present with an asymptomatic abdominal mass at the time of birth or abnormal prenatal ultrasound, and will undergo ultrasound as a primary evaluation.
- PET is not indicated in the initial staging of any pediatric renal tumor
- Recurrences are rare but most occur within 12 months of diagnosis

References (PEDONC-7)

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Pediatric Soft Tissue Sarcomas (PEDONC-8)

Guideline

Pediatric Soft Tissue Sarcomas – General Considerations (PEDONC-8.1)
Rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS) (PEDONC-8.2)
Non-Rhabdomyosarcoma Soft Tissue Sarcomas (NRSTS) (PEDONC-8.3)
References (PEDONC-8)

Pediatric Soft Tissue Sarcomas – General Considerations (PEDONC-8.1)

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- Unless specified below, individuals age <18 years old should be imaged according to this guideline section. Exceptions include:
 - Rhabdomyosarcoma in individuals (except uterine rhabdomyosarcoma) of all ages should be imaged according to guidelines in **Rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS) (PEDONC-8.2)**
 - Uterine rhabdomyosarcoma individuals of all ages should be imaged according to guidelines in Uterine Cancer (ONC-22). See: **Uterine Cancer – General Considerations (ONC-22.0)** in the Oncology Imaging Guidelines
 - Kaposi's sarcoma in individuals of all ages should be imaged according to guidelines in **Kaposi's Sarcoma (ONC-31.10)** in the Oncology Imaging Guidelines
- Evaluation of soft tissue masses of uncertain nature prior to biopsy should follow general imaging guidelines:
 - Individuals age 0 to 17 years, see: **Soft Tissue and Bone Masses (PEDMS-3)** in the Pediatric Musculoskeletal Imaging Guidelines
 - Individuals age ≥18 years, see: **Bone Lesion (MS-10.2)** in the Musculoskeletal Imaging Guidelines
- Where there are indications for PET/CT in these guidelines, note that indications and coding for rare circumstances where PET/MRI is medically necessary are found in **PET Imaging in Pediatric Oncology (PEDONC-1.4)**

Rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS) (PEDONC-8.2)

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- Individuals of all ages are imaged according to this guideline, with exception of uterine rhabdomyosarcoma, which is imaged according to Uterine Cancer (ONC-22). See: **Uterine Cancer – General Considerations (ONC-22.0)** in the Oncology Imaging Guidelines.

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Initial staging for all individuals	ALL of the following: - MRI without and with contrast of primary site - CT with contrast if MRI is contraindicated - CT Chest with contrast or CT Chest without contrast - should be completed prior to anesthesia exposure if possible - Whole-Body PET/CT (CPT® 78816) - Bone scan substituted for PET, if PET not available
Additional initial staging for ANY of the following: - evaluation of inconclusive PET findings in the abdomen or pelvis - primary site of abdomen or pelvis - lower extremity primary site	CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT 74177)

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Additional initial staging for ANY of the following: - Primary site involving the paraspinal or paravertebral region - PET or bone scan-avid lesions in skull, neck, vertebrae - Neurologic signs or symptoms raising suspicion of CNS metastases	ALL of the following: - MRI Brain (CPT[®] 70553) - MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158)
Treatment response, every 2 cycles during treatment, prior to local control surgery, and at the end of planned therapy	ALL of the following: - CT Chest with (CPT[®] 71260) contrast or CT Chest without contrast (CPT[®] 71250) - MRI without and with contrast of primary site - CT if used at initial imaging for MRI contraindication - CT with contrast or MRI without and with contrast of all known metastatic sites using the same conventional imaging modality as per initial staging
ANY of the following: - Response assessment prior to local control surgery or radiation therapy - Evaluation of residual mass visible on conventional imaging as part of end of therapy evaluation - Response assessment of disease visible on PET but not conventional imaging - PET results are likely to result in a treatment change for the individual, including a change from active treatment to surveillance.	- Whole-body PET/CT (CPT[®] 78816) - Once PET has been documented to be negative for a given individual's cancer or all PET-avid disease has been surgically resected, PET is not medically necessary for continued disease monitoring or surveillance unless one of the exceptions in section General Guidelines (PEDONC-1.0) applies.

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Restaging following local control surgery	ALL of the following: • MRI without and with contrast of primary site ◦ CT if used at initial imaging for MRI contraindication • CT with contrast or MRI without and with contrast of all known metastatic sites using the same conventional imaging modality as per initial staging
Surveillance, localized RMS	ALL of the following, every 3 months for 1 year, then every 4 months for 2 years, then every 6 months for 1 year after completion of all therapy; and for patients diagnosed at age 18 or older, annually indefinitely: • MRI without or without and with contrast of primary tumor site ◦ CT if MRI contraindicated • Chest x-ray ◦ CT Chest with (CPT[®] 71260) or CT Chest without contrast (CPT[®] 71250) for new or worsening clinical symptoms of chest disease or new findings on chest x-ray
Surveillance, metastatic RMS	ALL of the following, every 3 months for 1 year, then every 4 months for 2 years, then every 6 months for 1 year after completion of all therapy; and for patients diagnosed at age 18 or older, annually indefinitely: • MRI without or without and with contrast of primary tumor site • CT if contraindication to MRI • CT Chest with (CPT[®] 71260) <i>or</i> without contrast (CPT[®] 71250) • CT with or without contrast of all known metastatic sites • Nuclear bone scan (see: PEDONC-1.3 for coding) for surveillance of known bony metastases

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Suspected recurrence	Repeat conventional imaging as per initial staging for all individuals
ONE of the following: - Biopsy-proven recurrence - Conventional imaging (CT, MRI, US, plain film) reveals findings that are inconclusive or suspicious for recurrence, and PET avidity will determine whether biopsy or continued observation is appropriate - Rare circumstances where obvious clinical symptoms show strong evidence suggesting recurrence, and PET would replace conventional imaging modalities.	Whole-body PET/CT (CPT[®] 78816)

Background and Supporting Information

- Soft tissue sarcomas occur in both adult and pediatric individuals, but some are more common in one age group than the other.
- Pediatric soft tissue sarcomas are divided into **two** groups:
 - Rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS) accounts for ~60% of soft tissue sarcomas in young individuals, but only ~25% of soft tissue sarcomas in adolescents.
 - Non-rhabdomyosarcoma soft tissue sarcomas (NRSTS) which encompasses all other histologic subtypes.
- Because RMS can arise from any muscle tissue, the presenting symptoms and primary tumor sites vary widely and strongly influence the appropriate imaging decisions.
- CT with contrast is the preferred primary site imaging modality for RMS arising in the thoracic cavity (not the chest wall).
- MRI without and with contrast is the preferred primary site imaging modality for RMS occurring in all other anatomic locations, including the chest wall.
- PET/CT is superior to conventional imaging for detection of nodal and bony metastases in pediatric RMS and is indicated in the initial staging of all individuals after histologic diagnosis is established.

- CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177) is not routinely indicated in the initial metastatic staging of pediatric RMS.
- PET is not routinely utilized to assess treatment response in RMS.
- PET is generally not indicated during active treatment for recurrent pediatric cancer.
- Residual mass that has not changed in size since the last conventional imaging does not justify PET imaging during surveillance.
- PET avidity in a residual mass at the end of planned therapy is not an indication for PET imaging during surveillance.

Non-Rhabdomyosarcoma Soft Tissue Sarcomas (NRSTS) (PEDONC-8.3)

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Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Initial staging of all individuals	ALL of the following: • MRI without and with contrast of primary site ◦ CT with contrast if contraindication to MRI • CT Chest with contrast (CPT® 71260) or CT Chest without contrast (CPT® 71250) ◦ Should be completed prior to anesthesia if possible • For primary tumor of the chest wall, both MRI Chest wall without and with contrast (CPT® 71552) and CT Chest with contrast (CPT® 71260) or without contrast (CPT® 71250) to assess for pulmonary metastatic disease (indicated simultaneously) • PET/CT (CPT® 78815) ◦ Whole-body PET/CT (CPT® 78816) if there is clinical suspicion of skull or distal lower extremity involvement • Nuclear bone scan (see: PEDONC-1.3 for coding) if PET is not available

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
ANY of the following: • Additional initial staging for individuals with disease in the abdomen, pelvis, or lower extremities • Angiosarcoma, alveolar soft part sarcoma, clear cell sarcoma, epithelioid sarcoma, hemangiopericytoma, leiomyosarcoma, liposarcoma, retroperitoneal or intra-abdominal primary site (including pelvic primary site), other histologies documented to have propensity for lymphatic spread and deep-seated tumors • Inconclusive findings in the abdomen or pelvis on PET/CT	In addition to the above, one of the following combinations: • CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT® 74177) if not already performed • MRI Abdomen (CPT® 74183) and MRI Pelvis (CPT® 72197) without and with contrast • MRI Abdomen (CPT® 74183) with and without contrast and CT Pelvis (CPT® 72193) with contrast • CT Abdomen (CPT® 74160) with contrast and MRI Pelvis (CPT® 72197) without and with contrast
Further evaluation of ANY of the following: • PET or nuclear bone scan-avid lesions in skull, neck, or vertebrae seen on initial imaging • Neurologic signs or symptoms raising suspicion of CNS metastases • Myxoid round cell liposarcoma, angiosarcoma, alveolar soft part sarcoma, cardiac sarcoma • Additional staging for individuals with primary site arising in the paraspinal or paravertebral region	ALL of the following: • MRI Brain (CPT® 70553) • MRI Spine (Cervical-CPT® 72156, Thoracic-CPT® 72157, Lumbar-CPT® 72158)

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Treatment response, every 2 cycles of treatment, prior to local control, and at the end of planned therapy	Either of the following: • CT Chest with (CPT[®] 71260) or CT Chest without contrast (CPT[®] 71250), and • MRI without and with contrast of primary site ◦ CT if contraindication to MRI • CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177) for the same indications as abdominal/pelvic imaging for initial staging • Imaging of all known metastatic sites using the same conventional imaging modality as per initial staging OR • PET/CT (CPT[®] 78815) if disease visible on initial staging PET but not on conventional imaging ◦ Whole-body PET/CT (CPT[®] 78816) if there is clinical suspicion of skull or distal lower extremity involvement
ANY of the following, if PET positive at initial diagnosis: • Assessment prior to local control surgery or radiation therapy • Evaluation of residual mass visible on conventional imaging as part of end of therapy evaluation • Rare circumstances when PET results are likely to result in a treatment change for the individual, including a change from active treatment to surveillance	• PET/CT (CPT[®] 78815) ◦ Whole-body PET/CT (CPT[®] 78816) if there is clinical suspicion of skull or distal lower extremity involvement ◦ Once PET has been documented to be negative for a given individual's cancer or all PET-avid disease has been surgically resected, PET is not medically necessary for continued disease monitoring or surveillance unless one of the exceptions in section <u>General Guidelines (PEDONC-1.0)</u> applies.

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Restaging following local control surgery	ALL of the following: • MRI without and with contrast of the primary site ◦ CT if contraindication to MRI • Imaging of all known metastatic sites using the same conventional imaging modality as per initial staging • CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT® 74177) for the same indications as abdominal/pelvic imaging for initial staging
Surveillance, low grade, localized NRSTS of extremity or trunk treated with resection (with or without radiation) or chemotherapy	Every 3 months for the first 12 months, then every 4 months in years 2 and 3, and every 6 months in years 4 and 5, then annually thereafter: • MRI without and with contrast of the primary site • CT if MRI contraindicated AND Every 6 months for 3 years, then annually thereafter: • CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT® 74177) for the same indications as abdominal/pelvic imaging for initial staging • CT Chest with (CPT® 71260) or CT Chest without contrast (CPT® 71250)
Surveillance all other NRSTS	Every 3 months for the first 2 years, then every 6 months in years 3 and 4, and then annually: • MRI without and with contrast of the primary site ◦ CT if MRI contraindicated ◦ Nuclear bone scan (see: PEDONC-1.3 for coding) for surveillance of known bony metastases • CT Chest with (CPT® 71260) or CT Chest without contrast (CPT® 71250) • CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT® 74177) for the same indications as abdominal/pelvic imaging for initial staging

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
ANY of the following: • Angiosarcoma • Alveolar soft part sarcoma • Cardiac sarcoma	• In addition to the above studies: ◦ MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) annually For surveillance of individuals with known brain metastases, see: Brain Metastases (ONC-31.3)
Surveillance, recurrent NRSTS	ALL of the following after successful treatment for recurrent disease, every 3 months for 1 year (surveillance after year 1 should follow the standard timing listed in the appropriate surveillance section above): • CT Chest (CPT[®] 71260) with contrast • CT with contrast or MRI without and with contrast of the primary site • CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177) for the same indications as abdominal/pelvic imaging for initial staging
ANY of the following: • Conventional imaging (CT, MRI, US, plain film) during surveillance reveals findings that are inconclusive or suspicious for recurrence, and PET avidity will determine whether biopsy or continued observation is appropriate • Obvious clinical symptoms show strong evidence suggesting recurrent and PET would replace conventional imaging modalities	• PET/CT (CPT[®] 78815) ◦ Whole-body PET/CT (CPT[®] 78816) if there is clinical suspicion of skull or distal lower extremity involvement

Background and Supporting Information

- All soft tissue sarcomas other than RMS fall into this category
- Because soft tissue sarcomas can arise from any soft tissue, the presenting symptoms and primary tumor sites vary widely and strongly influence the appropriate imaging decisions

- CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT® 74177) is not routinely indicated in the initial metastatic staging of pediatric NRSTS
- Many individuals with NRSTS will be treated with surgical resection alone, and these individuals enter immediately into surveillance
- PET imaging is not routinely utilized to assess treatment response in NRSTS
- PET imaging is generally not indicated during active treatment for recurrent pediatric cancer.
- Residual mass that has not changed in size since the last conventional imaging does not justify PET
- PET avidity in a residual mass at the end of planned therapy is not an indication for PET imaging during surveillance
- Given that pediatric-specific resources are limited in regards to surveillance of NRSTS, this guideline combines published pediatric literature with NCCN recommendations for the same histologies.

References (PEDONC-8)

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Bone Tumors (PEDONC-9)

Guideline

Bone Tumors – General Considerations (PEDONC-9.1)

Benign Bone Tumors (PEDONC-9.2)

Osteogenic Sarcoma (OS) (PEDONC-9.3)

Ewing Sarcoma Family of Tumors (ESFT), Including Primitive Neuroectodermal Tumors (PNET) (PEDONC-9.4)

References (PEDONC-9)

Bone Tumors – General Considerations (PEDONC-9.1)

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These guidelines include both benign and malignant lesions.

- Unless specified below, individuals who are <18 years old should be imaged according to this guideline section. Exceptions include:
 - Osteogenic sarcoma individuals of all ages should be imaged according to guidelines in **Osteogenic Sarcoma (OS) (PEDONC-9.3)**.
 - Ewing Sarcoma and Primitive Neuroectodermal Tumor individuals of all ages should be imaged according to guidelines in **Ewing Sarcoma and Primitive Neuroectodermal Tumors (ESFT) (PEDONC-9.4)**.
 - Chondrosarcoma individuals of all ages should be imaged according to guidelines in **Bone Sarcomas – Initial Work-up/Staging (ONC-12.6)**.
 - Chordoma individuals of all ages should be imaged according to guidelines in **Bone Sarcomas – Initial Work-up/Staging (ONC-12.6)**.
 - Giant cell tumor of bone and enchondroma individuals of all ages should be imaged according to guidelines in **Benign Bone Tumors – General Considerations (ONC-12.9)**.
 - Other benign bone tumors in pediatric individuals should be imaged according to guidelines in **Benign Bone Tumors (PEDONC-9.2)**.
- Prosthetic devices for children after surgery for bony tumors are nearly all customized.
 - CT, contrast as requested in alignment with prosthetic manufacturer specifications, is medically necessary when requested by the operating surgeon for planning for customized-to-individual joint replacement or prosthetic surgery.
- All bone tumors should be evaluated by plain x-ray prior to any advanced imaging.
- PET does not reliably distinguish between benign and malignant bone tumors and should not be performed prior to biopsy.
- Where indications for PET/CT are noted, please note that indications and coding for rare circumstances where PET/MRI is medically necessary are found in **PET Imaging in Pediatric Oncology (PEDONC-1.4)**.
- CT Chest is superior to PET/CT for the detection of pulmonary metastases, and is medically necessary in the initial workup of all suspected malignant bone tumors.
 - CT Chest should be completed prior to anesthesia exposure, if possible.

Benign Bone Tumors (PEDONC-9.2)

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- Osteochondroma

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Preoperative planning	- MRI without and with contrast after evaluation by the operating surgeon - See: General Considerations (PEDONC-9.1) for requests related to prosthetic planning
- ANY of the following: - Concern for malignant transformation - New or worsening pain/symptoms - Change on a recent plain x-ray	MRI without contrast or without and with contrast

- Osteoid osteoma

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Suspected, based on clinical history and plain film findings	CT without contrast
- ANY of the following: - CTs are not characteristic for diagnosis - Individual has bone pain not localized to the area of findings on CT or x-ray	- ONE of the following: - Triple phase bone scan (CPT[®] 78315) - SPECT (CPT[®] 78803) - Hybrid SPECT/CT (CPT[®] 78830)
Individuals with new pain who have been previously treated with radiofrequency ablation or curettage	Bone scan (CPT[®] code 78830, 78315, or 78803 – as requested)

- Other benign tumors

- Refer to **Mass Involving Bone (Including suspected Lytic and Blastic Metastatic Disease) (PEDMS-3.4)**

Background and Supporting Information

- Plain x-ray appearance is diagnostic for many benign bone tumors, and advanced imaging is generally unnecessary except for preoperative planning
- Plain x-ray appearance is diagnostic for osteochondroma for the majority of individuals and advanced imaging is generally unnecessary

Osteogenic Sarcoma (OS) (PEDONC-9.3)

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Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Suspected or Biopsy Proven Diagnosis	• MRI without and with contrast of the primary site OR • CT, contrast as request, of the primary site if there is a contraindication to MRI AND • CT Chest with (CPT[®] 71260) or without contrast (CPT[®] 71250) ◦ CT Chest is medically necessary in initial workup of all suspected malignant bone tumors in children and should be completed prior to anesthesia exposure if possible • These studies are medically necessary even when PET/CT has already been authorized or performed
Initial Staging of Biopsy Proven Disease	• 18F-FDG PET/CT whole-body (CPT[®] 78816) ◦ Nuclear bone scan (see: (PEDONC-1.3) for coding) if PET not available ◦ PET/CT is medically necessary in addition to the conventional imaging listed in the suspected/ diagnosis sections • CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177) is not routinely medically necessary in the initial metastatic staging of pediatric OS but is medically necessary in the following situations: ◦ Evaluation of inconclusive PET findings ◦ Primary site of abdomen or pelvis
Suspected bony metastatic sites noted on PET or bone scan	• MRI without and with contrast of the suspected metastatic site OR • CT with contrast of the suspected metastatic site

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Restaging after 10 to 12 weeks of neoadjuvant chemotherapy prior to local control surgery	• MRI without and with contrast of primary site • CT Chest with (CPT[®] 71260) or without contrast (CPT[®] 71250) • 18F-FDG PET/CT whole-body (CPT[®] 78816) or bone scan (see: (PEDONC-1.3) for coding)
Individuals with metastatic disease undergoing current chemotherapy	• CT Chest with (CPT[®]) or without contrast (CPT[®] 71250) can be performed every 2 cycles during treatment and at the end of planned chemotherapy • MRI without and with contrast of primary site can be performed every 2 cycles during treatment and at the end of planned chemotherapy • If previously positive for bony metastases, 18F-FDG PET/CT whole body (CPT[®] 78816) or bone scan (see: (PEDONC-1.3) for coding) every 2 cycles during treatment and at the end of planned chemotherapy • Imaging may be indicated more frequently around the time of surgical resection of primary or metastatic lesions to assess for resectability
Preoperative planning for local control surgery	• CT, contrast as requested • MRA and/or CTA may rarely be indicated for complicated surgical resections, and is medically necessary after evaluation by the operating surgeon to clarify inconclusive MRI findings for preoperative planning • See: General Considerations (PEDONC-9.1) for advancing imaging requests related to prosthetic planning

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Following local control surgery, until the end of planned adjuvant chemotherapy	• MRI without and with contrast of primary site ~6 weeks after surgical procedure, and at the end of planned chemotherapy • Plain x-rays of the primary site and chest immediately after local control and then every 2 months between the supported, listed advanced imaging studies. • CT Chest with (CPT[®] 71260) or without contrast (CPT[®] 71250): ◦ Measurable pulmonary metastases: every 6 weeks, and at the end of planned chemotherapy ◦ No measurable pulmonary metastases: every 4 months, and at the end of planned chemotherapy • Bone scan (see: (PEDONC-1.3) for coding) every 4 months, and at the end of planned chemotherapy ◦ 18F-FDG PET/CT whole-body (CPT[®] 78816) in place of bone scan, if positive for distant bone metastases at initial diagnosis
Recurrent metastatic or recurrent unresectable disease on treatment	• The following every 2 cycles of treatment, and at the end of planned chemotherapy: ◦ CT Chest with (CPT[®] 71260) or without contrast (CPT[®] 71250) ◦ MRI without and with contrast of primary site ◦ PET is generally not medically necessary during active treatment for recurrent pediatric cancer. In rare circumstances, 18F-FDG PET/CT imaging with CPT[®] 78816 may be appropriate when results are likely to result in a treatment change for the individual, including a change from active treatment to surveillance.

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Surveillance (all individuals regardless of primary site)	- Any or all of the following every 3 months for year 1 and 2, then every 4 months in year 3, then every 6 months in year 4 and 5 after completion of all therapy - CT or MRI of primary site as performed during suspected or initial disease workup (provided the individual does not have an endoprosthesis that will cause MRI or CT artifact): - CT Chest with (CPT[®] 71260) or without contrast (CPT[®] 71250) - Bone scan (see: (PEDONC-1.3) for coding) every 3 months for 1 year, then every 4 months for 1 year, then every 6 months for 1 year, then annually for 2 years after completion of all therapy
Suspected recurrence	- MRI without and with contrast of the primary site and / or site of suspected recurrence based on symptoms or other imaging OR - CT, contrast as request, of the primary site and/or site of suspected recurrence based on symptoms or other imaging if there is a contraindication to MRI AND - CT Chest with (CPT[®] 71260) or without contrast (CPT[®] 71250) - CT Chest is medically necessary in initial workup of all suspected malignant bone tumors in children and should be completed prior to anesthesia exposure if possible - CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177) is not routinely medically necessary in the metastatic staging of pediatric OS, but is medically necessary in the following situations: - Evaluation of inconclusive PET findings - Primary site of abdomen or pelvis - These studies are medically necessary even when PET/CT has already been authorized or performed

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
- For suspected recurrence, ANY of the following: - Conventional imaging reveals findings that are inconclusive or suspicious for recurrence and PET avidity will determine whether biopsy or continued observation is appropriate - Rare circumstances where obvious clinical symptoms show strong evidence suggesting recurrence and PET would replace conventional imaging modalities	18F-FDG PET/CT (CPT® 78816)
Biopsy-proven recurrence	- PET/CT whole-body (CPT® 78816) for biopsy-proven recurrence - If disease is considered potentially resectable, follow osteosarcoma treatment response as previous

Ewing Sarcoma Family of Tumors (ESFT), Including Primitive Neuroectodermal Tumors (PNET) (PEDONC-9.4)

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Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Suspected/Diagnosis – ill-defined or non-discrete soft tissue mass without bony involvement	• US (CPT[®] 76881 or 76882) in addition to plain x-ray
Suspected or Biopsy Proven Diagnosis – Primary site	• MRI without and with contrast ◦ CT, contrast as requested, if there is a contraindication to MRI • MRA and/or CTA may rarely be indicated for complicated surgical resections, and is medically necessary after evaluation by the operating surgeon to clarify inconclusive MRI findings for preoperative planning • CT Chest with (CPT[®] 71260) or without contrast (CPT[®] 71250) ◦ CT Chest is medically necessary in initial workup of all suspected or confirmed malignant bone tumors in children and should be completed prior to anesthesia exposure if possible • These studies are medically necessary even when PET/CT has already been authorized or performed

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Suspected or Biopsy Proven Diagnosis – Chest wall primary	• MRI Chest without and with contrast AND • CT Chest with (CPT[®] 71260) or without contrast (CPT[®] 71250) ◦ CT Chest is medically necessary in initial workup of all suspected or confirmed malignant bone tumors in children and should be completed prior to anesthesia exposure if possible • These studies are medically necessary even when PET/CT has already been authorized or performed
Initial Staging (additional imaging after biopsy confirmed disease)	• PET/CT whole-body (CPT[®] 78816) ◦ Bone scan (see (PEDONC-1.3) for coding) substituted for PET imaging if PET not available ◦ PET/CT is medically necessary in addition to the conventional imaging listed in the suspected/ diagnosis sections
• For ANY of the following: ◦ Evaluation of inconclusive PET findings ◦ Primary site involving the abdomen or pelvis	• CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177)
Restaging after 10 to 12 weeks of neoadjuvant chemotherapy prior to local control surgery	Imaging modality should be the same as used for initial staging, any or all from the list below as described: • MRI without and with contrast of the primary site • CT (contrast as requested) if requested per valuation by the operating surgeon for pre-operative planning ◦ See General Considerations (PEDONC-9.1) for imaging requests related to prosthetic planning. • CT Chest with (CPT[®] 71260) or without contrast (CPT[®] 71250) • ONE of the following: ◦ PET/CT whole-body (CPT[®] 78816) ◦ Whole-body bone scan (see PEDONC-1.3 for coding) ◦ MRI bone marrow blood supply/diffusion-weighted MRI with ADC (CPT[®] 77084)

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Treatment response following local control surgery	• MRI without and with contrast of primary site 3 months after surgical procedure and at the end of planned chemotherapy • Plain x-rays of the primary site and chest immediately after local control then every 3 months • CT Chest with (CPT[®] 71260) or without contrast (CPT[®] 71250): ◦ Measurable pulmonary metastases: every 6 weeks and at the end of planned chemotherapy ◦ No measurable pulmonary metastases: every 3 months and at the end of planned chemotherapy • Whole-body bone scan (see PEDONC-1.3 for coding) at the end of planned chemotherapy • PET/CT whole-body (CPT[®] 78816) for clinical or imaging findings suggestive of local recurrence
Individuals with metastatic disease undergoing current chemotherapy	• CT Chest with (CPT[®] 71260) or without contrast (CPT[®] 71250) every 2 cycles during treatment and at the end of planned chemotherapy • MRI without and with contrast of primary site every 2 cycles during treatment and at the end of planned chemotherapy • If previously positive for bony metastases, PET/CT whole-body (CPT[®] 78816) or bone scan (see [PEDONC-1.3] for coding) every 2 cycles during treatment and at the end of planned chemotherapy • Imaging may be indicated more frequently around the time of surgical resection of primary or metastatic lesions to assess for resectability • CT with contrast of other sites of involvement

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Recurrent metastatic or recurrent unresectable disease on treatment	• Every 2 cycles of treatment, and at the end of planned chemotherapy: ◦ CT Chest with (CPT[®] 71260) or without contrast (CPT[®] 71250) ◦ MRI without and with contrast of primary site ◦ PET imaging is medically necessary when results are likely to result in a treatment change for the individual, including a change from active treatment to surveillance.
Surveillance for all disease other than low grade, stage I disease	• Every 3 months for year 1 and 2, then every 4 months in year 3, then every 6 months in year 4 and 5, and annually for 5 years after completion of all therapy to complete 10 years of surveillance: ◦ CT or MRI of primary site as performed during suspected or initial disease workup (provided the individual does not have an endoprosthesis that will cause MRI or CT artifact): ◦ Bone scan (see (PEDONC-1.3) for coding) • Every 3 months for year 1 and 2, then every 4 months in year 3, then every 6 months in year 4 and 5: ◦ CT Chest with (CPT[®] 71260) or without contrast (CPT[®] 71250) ◦ After year 5, CXR should be used for surveillance

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Surveillance for low grade stage I disease only	• Every 3 months for year 1 and 2, then every 4 months in year 3, then every 6 months in year 4 and 5, and annually for 5 years after completion of all therapy to complete 10 years of surveillance: ◦ CT or MRI of primary site as performed during suspected or initial disease workup (provided the individual does not have an endoprosthesis that will cause MRI or CT artifact) ◦ Bone scan (see PEDONC-1.3 for coding) • Every 3 months for year 1 and 2 ◦ CT Chest with (CPT[®] 71260) or without contrast (CPT[®] 71250) ◦ After 24 months off therapy, CXR should be used for surveillance with CT supported for new or inconclusive findings on CXR
Suspected Recurrence	• MRI without and with contrast of the primary site and/or site of suspected recurrence based on symptoms or other imaging, OR • CT, contrast as request, of the primary site and/or site of suspected recurrence based on symptoms or other imaging if there is a contraindication to MRI AND • CT Chest with (CPT[®] 71260) or without contrast (CPT[®] 71250) ◦ CT Chest is medically necessary in initial workup of all suspected malignant bone tumors in children and should be completed prior to anesthesia exposure if possible • CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177) is not medically necessary in the metastatic staging of pediatric EWS but is medically necessary in the following situations only: ◦ Evaluation of inconclusive PET findings ◦ Primary site of abdomen or pelvis • The studies above are medically necessary even when PET/CT has already been authorized or performed

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
- For suspected recurrence, any of the following: - Conventional imaging reveals findings that are inconclusive or suspicious for recurrence and PET avidity will determine whether biopsy or continued observation is appropriate - Rare circumstances where obvious clinical symptoms show strong evidence suggesting recurrence and PET would replace conventional imaging modalities	PET/CT whole-body (CPT [®] 78816)
Biopsy proven recurrence	- Refer to ESFT initial imaging for studies for suspected recurrence. - PET/CT whole-body (CPT[®] 78816) - If disease is considered potentially resectable, follow ESFT treatment response as previously noted

Background and Supporting Information

- Bone and bone marrow metastases can occur in ESFT, and cause a significant change in treatment approach.
- 18F-FDG PET/CT can replace bone scan and bone marrow biopsy in ESFT individuals and is indicated in the initial staging of all ESFT individuals after histologic diagnosis is established.

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Pediatric Germ Cell Tumors (PEDONC-10)

Guideline

Pediatric Germ Cell Tumors (PEDONC-10)

References (PEDONC-10)

Pediatric Germ Cell Tumors (PEDONC-10)

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Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Initial staging for all individuals	- CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177) - For testicular masses, MRI Abdomen without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74183) and CT Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 72193) are medically necessary instead, if requested - CT Chest with contrast (CPT[®] 71260) - Should be completed prior to anesthesia exposure if possible
- Initial staging, in lieu of CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (above), for ANY of the following: - Proven or highly suspected ovarian neoplasm that was already imaged with ultrasound - Immature sacrococcygeal teratoma suspected on other imaging - Contraindication to CT contrast OR - To clarify inconclusive findings on initial staging CT	MRI Abdomen and Pelvis without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74183 and CPT[®] 72197)
Ovarian masses that are <10 cm in size, have minimal or no visible solid component on ultrasound, and have normal tumor markers	These are almost universally benign teratomas or functional cysts; thus, advanced imaging is not medically necessary

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Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
- Additional initial evaluation for individuals with ANY of the following: - Symptoms suggesting CNS metastases - Choriocarcinoma syndrome (hemorrhagic metastatic disease to lung with extremely elevated HCG) HCG >10,000miU/ml	MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT® 70553)
Additional initial evaluation for individuals with systemic symptoms or bone pain	Nuclear bone scan (See: PEDONC-1.3 for coding)
Restaging in individuals with disease not completely resected at initial diagnosis	- Every 2 cycles (~every 6 weeks) and at the end of planned therapy: - CT Chest/Abdomen/Pelvis (CPT® 71260 and CPT® 74177) with contrast - CT imaging may be indicated more frequently to assess for surgical resectability in individuals who have received more than 4 cycles of chemotherapy - MRI Abdomen and Pelvis without and with contrast (CPT® 74183 and CPT® 72197) in lieu of CT abdomen and pelvis for ovarian neoplasms if this modality was used for initial staging or for contraindication to CT contrast - Imaging of any metastatic sites with the same modality used during initial staging
- Suspicious lesion seen on CT and both of the following: - Relapse risk is determined to be low by the treating physician - Biopsy would cause unnecessary morbidity for the individual	Short-interval CT study of the involved area

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Stage I individuals age 0-10 years treated with surgery only	• Chest x-ray should be completed every 3 months for 1 year, then every 6 months in year two, to complete two years surveillance after completion of all therapy ◦ For those with primary mediastinal tumors at diagnosis, CT Chest with contrast (CPT[®] 71260) in lieu of CXR according to the above schedule. • Every 3 months for 1 year, then every 6 months in year two, to complete two years surveillance after completion of all therapy: ◦ CT Abdomen/Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177) ▪ MRI Abdomen and Pelvis without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74183 and CPT[®] 72197) substituted for surveillance for ovarian neoplasm if this modality was used for initial staging
Stage I individuals ages 11+ years treated with surgery only	• Every 4 months for 2 years, then every 6 months for 1 year, then every 12 months for 2 years to complete 5 years surveillance imaging after completion of all therapy: ◦ Chest x-ray ◦ For individuals with primary mediastinal tumors at diagnosis, CT Chest with contrast (CPT[®] 71260) in lieu of chest x-ray on the above schedule. • Every 4 months for 2 years, then every 6 months for 1 year, then every 12 months for two years to complete 5 years surveillance ◦ CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177) ▪ MRI Abdomen and Pelvis without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74183 and CPT[®] 72197) substituted for surveillance for ovarian neoplasm if this modality was used for initial staging

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Stage II-IV individuals	- CT Chest with contrast (CPT® 71260) or CT Chest without contrast (CPT® 71250) and CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT® 74177) every 3 months for 1 year then every 6 months in year 2, then annually in years 3-5 after completion of all therapy. - MRI Abdomen and Pelvis without and with contrast (CPT® 74183 and CPT® 72197) substituted for surveillance for ovarian neoplasm if this modality was used for initial staging - Individuals with brain or bone metastases should have surveillance imaging of those areas on the same schedule as the primary site imaging with the same modality used during initial staging
- Suspected Recurrence: - Any clinically significant rise in tumor markers - Symptoms suggesting recurrent disease - Abnormal chest x-ray	- CT Chest with contrast (CPT® 71260) and CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT® 74177) - MRI Abdomen and Pelvis without and with contrast (CPT® 74183 and CPT® 72197) in lieu of CT for suspected recurrence of immature sacrococcygeal tumor or ovarian neoplasm or for contraindication to CT contrast - Whole-body bone scan (CPT® 78306) for individuals with a history of bone involvement or with bone pain
Clarify inconclusive findings on conventional imaging	PET/CT (CPT® 78815)

Background and Supporting Information

General Considerations:

- Malignant pediatric germ cell tumors commonly include one of four histologic subtypes:
 - Yolk sac tumor
 - Choriocarcinoma
 - Embryonal carcinoma
 - Mixed histology (including immature sacrococcygeal teratoma)

- Tumors can occur in testicular, ovarian or extragonadal primary locations
- Sex cord stromal tumors (granulosa cell, theca, sertoli, and leydig tumors) are rare in pediatrics and should be imaged according to general guidelines in: **Testicular, Ovarian and Extragonadal Germ Cell Tumors (ONC-20)** in the Oncology Imaging Guidelines
- This section applies to primary germ cell tumors occurring outside the central nervous system in children who are ≤15 years old at the time of initial diagnosis.
 - For individuals who are >15 years old at diagnosis, the overall prognosis is inferior and these individuals should be imaged according to general guidelines in: **Testicular, Ovarian and Extragonadal Germ Cell Tumors (ONC-20)** in the Oncology Imaging Guidelines.
- For CNS germ cell tumors, use the imaging guidelines in: **CNS Germinomas and Non-Germinomatous Germ Cell Tumors (NGGCT) (PEDONC-4.7)**.

Treatment Considerations:

- Overall treatment strategies are similar for all malignant germ cell tumors.
- Individuals with localized GCT are often cured with surgery alone and do not receive adjuvant therapy.
 - These individuals should be imaged using surveillance guidelines after surgery is completed.
- Individuals receiving adjuvant chemotherapy are usually treated with 4 to 6 cycles of combination chemotherapy.

Imaging Modality Considerations:

- Initial evaluation of: Ovarian, testicular, and abdominal extragonadal suspected GCT should be completed by ultrasound and tumor markers (AFP, β-hCG)
 - Once a primary mass suspected to be GCT is discovered, initial staging is indicated prior to histologic confirmation
 - The degree of abdominal exploration and node sampling necessary for adequate staging is determined in part by imaging findings and is required for preoperative planning
- The primary method of response assessment is by tumor marker decrease
- The primary method of surveillance in pediatric GCT is frequent assessment of serum tumor markers, unless tumor markers were not elevated at diagnosis
- Surveillance imaging of the chest in disease stages I-IV should generally be performed using chest x-ray
 - See surveillance indications for specific imaging recommendations
- There has been no published evidence to date supporting the routine use of PET/CT in the evaluation of pediatric GCT

- Additionally, PET has been found to have similar efficacy to CT imaging in initial staging of adults with non-seminomatous GCT (the majority of pediatric GCT are non-seminomatous)
- PET as a marker of treatment response has been shown not to be predictive of individual outcomes in GCT and should not be approved
 - Suspicious lesions seen on conventional imaging should be biopsied to confirm active disease

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Pediatric Liver and Pancreatic Tumors (PEDONC-11)

Guideline

Pediatric Liver and Pancreatic Tumors – General Considerations (PEDONC-11.1)
Hepatoblastoma (PEDONC-11.2)
Pediatric Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC) (PEDONC-11.3)
Pediatric Pancreatic Carcinoma (PEDONC-11.4)
References (PEDONC-11)

Pediatric Liver and Pancreatic Tumors – General Considerations (PEDONC-11.1)

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- Primary hepatic germ cell tumors should follow imaging guidelines in: **Pediatric Germ Cell Tumors (PEDONC-10)**.
- Primary hepatic sarcomas should follow imaging guidelines in: **Non-Rhabdomyosarcoma Soft Tissue Sarcomas (NRSTS) (PEDONC-8.3)**.
- Imaging requests relating to liver transplant surgery and surveillance should follow guidelines in section **Transplant (AB-42)** in the Abdomen Imaging Guidelines.

Hepatoblastoma (PEDONC-11.2)

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Hepatoblastoma Initial Staging:

- Ultrasound is medically necessary even after MRI or CT imaging in order to allow evaluation for tumor thrombus
- Once a primary liver mass is discovered, definitive imaging is medically necessary prior to histologic diagnosis, and may involve ANY of the following:
 - MRI Abdomen and Pelvis without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74183 and CPT[®] 72197) for evaluating tumor margins and vascular anatomy
 - Hepatobiliary-specific contrast agents (gadoxetate, gadobenate [MultiHance]) are preferred if available and are medically necessary if requested, whether or not a prior gadolinium-enhanced MRI has been previously performed
 - CT Abdomen and Pelvis with (CPT[®] 74177) is inferior to MRI for pediatric liver malignancies and is only medically necessary if MRI is not available, contraindicated, or sedation is required but not available, or to clarify specific inconclusive areas on MRI.
 - Non-contrast imaging is not medically necessary due to the increased radiation exposure and limited additive benefit
 - MRA Abdomen (CPT[®] 74185) or CTA Abdomen (CPT[®] 74175) to evaluate vascular invasion
- CT Chest with (CPT[®] 71260) **or** CT Chest without contrast (CPT[®] 71250) is medically necessary in the initial work-up of all pediatric liver tumors and should be completed prior to anesthesia exposure if possible
- Bone scan (See: **Modality General Considerations (PEDONC-1.3)**) is medically necessary for initial evaluation of bony metastases only with systemic symptoms or bone pain.
- MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) is medically necessary only for symptoms suggesting CNS metastases
- PET/CT is medically necessary only in very rare circumstances for preoperative planning when MRI and CT scans are insufficient for surgical decision-making.
 - Indications and coding for rare circumstances where PET/MRI is medically necessary are found in **PET Imaging in Pediatric Oncology (PEDONC-1.4)**

Hepatoblastoma Treatment Response:

- CT Chest with (CPT[®] 71260) **or** without contrast (CPT[®] 71250) is medically necessary every 2 cycles **and** at the end of planned therapy for individuals with incomplete resection at initial diagnosis

- MRI Abdomen and Pelvis without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74183 and CPT[®] 72197) is medically necessary every 2 cycles **and** at the end of planned therapy for individuals with incomplete resection at initial diagnosis
 - CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177) or CT Abdomen and Pelvis without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74178) is inferior to MRI for pediatric liver malignancies and is only medically necessary if MRI is not available, contraindicated, or sedation is required but not available, or to clarify specific inconclusive areas on MRI.
 - Non-contrast imaging is not medically necessary due to the increased radiation exposure and limited additive benefit
- While the majority of individuals will require abdomen and pelvis imaging at all time points, the pelvis imaging may be omitted at the discretion of the ordering physician
- MRA Abdomen (CPT[®] 74185) or CTA Abdomen (CPT[®] 74175) is medically necessary to evaluate vascular invasion
- Imaging of any metastatic sites with the same modality used during initial staging is medically necessary every 2 cycles and at the end of planned therapy for individuals with incomplete resection at initial diagnosis
- Imaging is medically necessary more frequently to assess for surgical resectability in individuals who have received more than 4 cycles of chemotherapy.
- Abdominal ultrasound is medically necessary if tumor thrombus was detected at initial diagnosis
 - If no tumor thrombus was present, continued ultrasound evaluations are not medically necessary without a specific reason documented in the clinical records
- PET/CT is medically necessary only in very rare circumstances for preoperative planning when MRI and CT scans are insufficient for surgical decision making.

Hepatoblastoma Surveillance Imaging:

- For surveillance in individuals with an AFP of >100 ng/ml, the following imaging is medically necessary:
 - CT Chest with contrast (CPT[®] 71260) and MRI Abdomen without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74183) for any clinically significant rise in tumor markers or symptoms suggesting recurrent disease.
 - CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177) is inferior to MRI for pediatric liver malignancies and is only medically necessary if MRI is not available, contraindicated, or sedation is required but not available, or to clarify specific inconclusive areas on MRI.
 - Non-contrast imaging is not medically necessary due to the increased radiation exposure and limited additive benefit
- For individuals with AFP ≤100 ng/ml at diagnosis or recurrence, the following imaging is medically necessary:

- MRI Abdomen with and without contrast (CPT[®] 74183) every 3 months for 2 years, then every 4 months for 2 years after completion of all therapy
- Chest x-ray or CT Chest with contrast (CPT[®] 71260) every 3 months for 2 years, then every 4 months for 2 years after completion of all therapy
- Individuals with brain or bone metastases should have surveillance imaging on the same schedule as the primary site imaging with the same modality used during initial staging

Background and Supporting Information

- Pediatric liver tumors primarily include hepatoblastoma and hepatocellular carcinoma, but hepatic germ cell tumors and primary hepatic sarcomas occur with some frequency. Tumor markers are useful for initial evaluation as well as treatment response, particularly in hepatoblastoma. Early consideration of liver transplant may be undertaken in children and adolescents with unresectable localized disease, provided that the disease remains confined to the liver.
- Hepatoblastoma occurs most commonly in very young children (median diagnosis age of 19 months). Most cases of hepatoblastoma are sporadic, but some are associated with genetic abnormalities, including Beckwith-Wiedemann syndrome, familial adenomatous polyposis, and trisomy 18. Most suspected liver tumors will have ultrasound and tumor markers (AFP, β -HCG, CEA) as part of the initial evaluation.
- There has been no published evidence to date supporting the routine use of PET/CT imaging in the evaluation of pediatric Hepatoblastoma during initial imaging, treatment response, or surveillance.
- PET/CT should not be approved in lieu of biopsy of suspicious lesions
- Individuals with localized hepatoblastoma of pure fetal histology are often cured with surgery alone and do not receive adjuvant therapy. These individuals should be imaged using surveillance guidelines after surgery is completed.
- Individuals receiving adjuvant chemotherapy are usually treated with 2 to 8 cycles of combination chemotherapy. Tumor marker decrease is important in response assessment but does not eliminate the need for advanced imaging in individuals with unresected hepatoblastoma.
- The primary method of surveillance in hepatoblastoma is frequent assessment of serum tumor markers (primarily AFP).
- No specific imaging for surveillance in individuals with an AFP of >100 ng/mL at diagnosis or recurrence.

Pediatric Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC) (PEDONC-11.3)

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Pediatric HCC Initial Staging:

- Ultrasound is medically necessary even after MRI or CT imaging in order to allow evaluation for tumor thrombus
- Once a primary liver mass is discovered, definitive imaging prior to histologic diagnosis including ANY of the following medically necessary studies:
 - MRI Abdomen and Pelvis without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74183 and CPT[®] 72197)
 - Hepatobiliary specific contrast agents (gadoxetate, gadobenate [MultiHance]) are preferred if available and are medically necessary if requested, whether or not a prior gadolinium-enhanced MRI has been previously performed.
 - CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177) is inferior to MRI for pediatric liver malignancies and is only medically necessary if MRI is not available, contraindicated, or sedation is required but not available, or to clarify specific inconclusive areas on MRI.
 - Noncontrast imaging is not medically necessary due to the increased radiation exposure and limited additive benefit
 - MRA Abdomen (CPT[®] 74185) or CTA Abdomen (CPT[®] 74175) to evaluate vascular invasion
- CT Chest with (CPT[®] 71260) **or** without contrast (CPT[®] 71250) is medically necessary in the initial work-up of all pediatric liver tumors and should be completed prior to anesthesia exposure if possible
- MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) is medically necessary only for symptoms suggesting CNS metastases
- Nuclear bone scan (See **Modality General Considerations (PEDONC-1.3)**) is medically necessary for initial evaluation of bony metastases only in individuals with systemic symptoms or bone pain
- PET/CT is medically necessary in very rare circumstances for preoperative planning when MRI and CT are insufficient for surgical decision-making.
 - PET/CT should not be approved in lieu of biopsy of suspicious lesions
 - Indications and coding for rare circumstances where PET/MRI is medically necessary are found in **PET Imaging in Pediatric Oncology (PEDONC-1.4)**

Pediatric HCC Treatment Response:

- For individuals with disease not completely resected at initial diagnosis, the following imaging is medically necessary every 2 cycles (~6 weeks) **and** at the end of planned therapy:
 - CT Chest with (CPT[®] 71260) **or** CT Chest without contrast (CPT[®] 71250)
 - MRI Abdomen and Pelvis without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74183 and CPT[®] 72197)
 - While the majority of individuals will require abdomen and pelvis imaging at all time points, the pelvis imaging may be omitted at the discretion of the ordering physician
 - CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177) is inferior to MRI for pediatric liver malignancies and is only medically necessary if MRI is not available, contraindicated, or sedation is required but not available, or to clarify specific inconclusive areas on MRI.
 - Non-contrast imaging is not medically necessary due to the increased radiation exposure and limited additive benefit
 - MRA Abdomen (CPT[®] 74185) or CTA Abdomen (CPT[®] 74175) to evaluate vascular invasion
- Imaging of any metastatic sites with the same modality used during initial staging is medically necessary
- Abdominal ultrasound is medically necessary if tumor thrombus was detected at initial diagnosis
 - If no tumor thrombus was present, continued ultrasound evaluations are not medically necessary without a specific reason documented in the clinical records
- PET/CT is medically necessary in very rare circumstances for preoperative planning when MRI and CT scans are insufficient for surgical decision-making.

Pediatric HCC Surveillance Imaging:

- MRI Abdomen and Pelvis without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74183 and CPT[®] 72197) is medically necessary every 3 months for 1 year, then every 6 months for 1 year, then annually for 3 years after completion of all therapy
- Chest x-ray or CT Chest with contrast (CPT[®] 71260) is medically necessary every 3 months for 1 year, then every 6 months for 1 year, then annually for 3 years after completion of all therapy

Background and Supporting Information

- Individuals with brain or bone metastases should have surveillance imaging on the same schedule as the primary site imaging with the same modality used during initial staging.

- HCC, including its rare histologically distinct variant fibrolamellar hepatocellular carcinoma (FL-HCC), occurs mostly in older children and adolescents. Despite recent advances in treatment, overall survival of pediatric HCC diagnosed in advanced stages remains exceedingly poor, with five-year survival of only 17% to 22% for all stages of pediatric HCC (and FL-HCC). Most suspected liver tumors will have ultrasound and tumor markers (AFP, β -HCG, CEA) as initial evaluation.
- PET/CT should not be approved in lieu of biopsy of suspicious lesions
- The majority of hepatocellular carcinoma individuals are treated with surgery alone and do not receive adjuvant therapy. Individuals with successful upfront gross total resection should be imaged using surveillance guidelines after surgery is completed.
- PET/CT has no documented role in the surveillance evaluation of pediatric hepatocellular carcinoma.

Pediatric Pancreatic Carcinoma (PEDONC-11.4)

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- This guideline applies to suspected or diagnosed pancreatic neoplasms in children.
- Beckwith-Wiedemann syndrome increases pancreatoblastoma risk. MEN1, VHL, neurofibromatosis, and tuberous sclerosis are also risk factors for pancreatic endocrine neoplasms.
 - Screening studies in these conditions are found in **Screening Imaging in Cancer Predisposition Syndromes (PEDONC-2)**.

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Initial Staging	▪ CT Abdomen and Pelvis with or without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74177 or CPT[®] 74178) OR MRI Abdomen without and with contrast plus MRI Pelvis with and without contrast (CPT[®] 74183 and CPT[®] 72197) ▪ CT Chest with (CPT[®] 71260) or without (CPT[®] 71250) contrast ▪ ⁶⁸Ga-Dotatate PET/CT whole-body (CPT[®] 78816) - Exception: for pediatric pancreatic tumor of non neuroendocrine origin (SPN, pancreatoblastoma and other exocrine origin) with equivocal conventional imaging, FDG PET/CT whole-body or skull to thighs (CPT[®] 78816 or 78815)
Treatment response ~every 2 cycles during treatment and at the end of planned therapy	▪ CT or MRI as used at time of initial imaging
If conventional imaging for treatment response is equivocal	▪ Neuroendocrine tumors: ⁶⁸Ga Dotatate PET/CT skull to thighs or whole-body (CPT[®] 78815 or 78816) ▪ Non-neuroendocrine tumors: FDG PET/CT skull to thighs or whole-body (CPT[®] 78815 or 78816)
Assess candidacy for PRRT therapy	▪ ⁶⁸Ga Dotatate PET/CT whole body CPT[®] 78816 to assess candidacy for PRRT therapy

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Surveillance	▪ MRI or CT, modality and contrast as used in initial imaging, every 3 months for 2 years, then every 4 months for 1 year, then every 6 months for 1 year, then in 12 months to complete 5 years surveillance.
Suspected recurrence	▪ Repeat all imaging as noted in initial staging section

Background and Supporting Information

- Pancreatic tumors in children are exceedingly rare. The most common are solid pseudopapillary neoplasm (SPN), a low-grade epithelial malignancy. Pancreatoblastoma is the second most common.

References (PEDONC-11)

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Retinoblastoma (PEDONC-12)

Guideline

Retinoblastoma – General Considerations (PEDONC-12.1)

Retinoblastoma – Imaging (PEDONC-12.2)

References (PEDONC-12)

Retinoblastoma – General Considerations (PEDONC-12.1)

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- Retinoblastoma (RB) is primarily a disease of the infant and young child, and presents with leukocoria (loss of red reflex).
- About 75% of individuals are diagnosed before the age of two years (bilateral RB presents at 12 months of age).
- Retinoblastoma can occur as heritable (25% of cases) or nonheritable (75%) disease.
 - Heritable RB is associated with a germline mutation in the RB1 gene often resulting typically in bilateral disease.
 - Individuals who carry the RB1 mutation also have increased risk of developing other cancers, such as osteosarcoma, soft tissue sarcomas, or melanoma. For more information on heritable retinoblastoma, see: **Familial Retinoblastoma Syndrome (PEDONC-2.12)**.
 - Whole-body MRI has shown poor sensitivity and specificity in individuals with predisposition to systemic malignancy due to germline RB1 mutations, and is not supported.
- Detailed evaluation by a physician with significant training and/or experience in retinoblastoma (most commonly a pediatric ophthalmologist or pediatric oncologist) is indicated prior to considering advanced imaging.
- Retinoblastoma can be unilateral, bilateral, or trilateral (involving the pineal gland). Extraocular spread of retinoblastoma is rare and generally confined to the brain.

Retinoblastoma – Imaging (PEDONC-12.2)

ONCP.EC.0012.2.A

v2.0.2026

Retinoblastoma Medically Necessary Initial Staging Imaging:

- Tumor biopsy is NOT required prior to imaging
- MRI Orbits (CPT[®] 70543) and Brain (CPT[®] 70553) without and with contrast in the initial work-up
 - Brain imaging may be omitted or deferred at the discretion of the treating ophthalmologist or oncologist
- MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158) if there is evidence of CNS metastasis on:
 - Ophthalmologic exam
 - MRI Brain
 - Lumbar CSF cytology
- CT Chest (CPT[®] 71260) and MRI Abdomen and Pelvis without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74183 and CPT[®] 72197) with clinical symptoms to suggest metastatic disease
- CT Orbital (contrast as requested) and orbital ultrasound if ordered by the treating ophthalmologist for a specified indication
- Nuclear bone scan (See: **Modality General Considerations (PEDONC-1.3)**) for individuals with systemic bone pain suggestive of bony metastases
- PET has no documented role in the evaluation of retinoblastoma

Retinoblastoma Medically Necessary Treatment Response Imaging:

- MRI Orbits (CPT[®] 70543) and/or Brain (CPT[®] 70553) every 2 cycles (~ every 6 weeks) and at the end of planned therapy
- For individuals with metastatic disease, imaging of known positive areas using the same modality at initial staging every 2 cycles (~6 to 8 weeks) and at the end of planned therapy

Retinoblastoma Medically Necessary Surveillance Imaging:

- Unilateral retinoblastoma
 - Surveillance using advanced imaging for unilateral retinoblastoma after enucleation or exenteration only for evaluation of specific clinical concerns.
- Bilateral retinoblastoma or individuals treated with ocular salvage approach

- MRI Orbits (CPT[®] 70543) and Brain (CPT[®] 70553) for individuals undergoing ocular salvage treatment approaches every 6 months for 2 years following completion of therapy or until the age of 5 years, whichever is later

Background and Supporting Information

- CT should generally be avoided in retinoblastoma individuals under one year of age or with family history of retinoblastoma (heritable) due to substantially increased risks for secondary malignancy
- The primary method of surveillance in retinoblastoma is examination under anesthesia (EUA), although some older children can be sufficiently evaluated by exam without anesthesia (EWA).
- Surveillance using advanced imaging is generally not indicated for unilateral retinoblastoma after enucleation or exenteration but can be approved for evaluation of specific clinical concerns.
- Individuals with bilateral retinoblastoma or germline mutation in RB1 are at increased risk for subsequent pineoblastoma
- Routine MRI follow up for pineal disease is not currently supported by evidence in unilateral retinoblastoma individuals without germline RB1 mutations

References (PEDONC-12)

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Pediatric Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma (PEDONC-13)

Guideline

Pediatric Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma – General Considerations (PEDONC-13.1)
Pediatric NPC – Imaging (PEDONC-13.2)
References (PEDONC-13)

Pediatric Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma – General Considerations (PEDONC-13.1)

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- Pediatric nasopharyngeal carcinoma (NPC) is rare in comparison to adult NPC but is responsible for up to 50% of nasopharyngeal cancers in children and has higher rates of aggressive type III EBV-associated histology than adult NPC.
- Standard upfront treatment in pediatric NPC consists of 3 to 4 cycles of neoadjuvant chemotherapy followed by definitive chemoradiotherapy. Rare individuals with lower stage disease may be treated with radiotherapy alone.

Pediatric NPC – Imaging (PEDONC-13.2)

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Pediatric NPC Medically Necessary Initial Staging Imaging:

- MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) **and** MRI Neck without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70543)
 - CT Head without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70470), CT Maxillofacial without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70488), **and/or** CT Neck with contrast (CPT[®] 70491) for individuals with documented contraindication to MRI imaging (avoidance of sedation should not be the sole reason)
- CT Chest with contrast (CPT[®] 71260) in initial staging
- Whole-body PET/CT (CPT[®] 78816) after histologic confirmation of NPC to evaluate for distant metastases
 - Bone scan when PET/CT is unavailable (See: **Modality General Considerations (PEDONC-1.3)**)
 - Indications and coding for rare circumstances where PET/MRI is medically necessary are found in **PET Imaging in Pediatric Oncology (PEDONC-1.4)**
 - CT Abdomen with contrast (CPT[®] 74160) for ANY of the following if PET/CT unavailable:
 - Initial EBV DNA load ≥ 4000 copies/mL
 - Signs and symptoms of liver disease (including abdominal pain and elevated LFTs)

Pediatric NPC Medically Necessary Treatment Response Imaging:

- MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) **and** MRI Neck without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70543) for response assessment at the following time points:
 - Following completion of neoadjuvant chemotherapy
 - Following completion of chemoradiotherapy
- CT Chest with contrast (CPT[®] 71260) **and** Whole-Body PET/CT (CPT[®] 78816) **or** bone scan (See: **Modality General Considerations (PEDONC-1.3)**) at the following time points:
 - Following completion of neoadjuvant chemotherapy only if positive at initial diagnosis
 - Following completion of chemoradiotherapy
- PET during active treatment for recurrent pediatric cancer in rare circumstances when results are likely to result in a treatment change, including a change from active treatment to surveillance.

Pediatric NPC Medically Necessary Surveillance Imaging:

- MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) **and** MRI Neck without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70543) every 3 months for 1 year, then every 6 months for 2 years after completion of all planned therapy
- CT Chest with contrast (CPT[®] 71260) every 3 months for 1 year, then every 6 months for 2 years after completion of all planned therapy

Pediatric NPC Medically Necessary Suspected Recurrence Imaging:

- MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) and MRI Neck without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70543)
 - CT Head without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70470), CT Maxillofacial without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70488), and/or CT Neck with contrast (CPT[®] 70491) for individuals with documented contraindication to MRI imaging
- CT Chest with contrast (CPT[®] 71260)
- Whole-body PET/CT (CPT[®] 78816) or bone scan (See: **Modality General Considerations (PEDONC-1.3)**) for histologically confirmed recurrence of NPC. These studies are also medically necessary for:
 - Clarification of specified inconclusive findings seen on conventional imaging
 - Restaging to identify sites of disease when EBV PCR levels are abnormally high and conventional imaging is negative

Background and Supporting Information

- Metastasis frequently occurs in cervical lymph nodes and retropharyngeal space. Distal metastasis usually appears in bones, lungs, mediastinum, and rarely, in the liver. In many individuals, the initial presentation is a cervical adenopathy, and diagnosis is made with a lymph node biopsy.
- Quantitative EBV DNA PCR measured at initial diagnosis, as it can serve as an effective tumor marker if elevated at initial diagnosis.
- Skull base invasion is common in pediatric NPC and has a dramatic impact on prognosis, and is more easily recognized on MRI imaging
- PET is generally not indicated during active treatment for recurrent pediatric cancer
 - Whole-body PET/CT (CPT[®] 78816) or bone scan (See: **Modality General Considerations (PEDONC-1.3)**) are not indicated for routine surveillance in asymptomatic individuals

References (PEDONC-13)

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Pediatric Adrenocortical Carcinoma (PEDONC-14)

Guideline

Pediatric Adrenocortical Carcinoma – General Considerations (PEDONC-14.1)

Pediatric ACC – Imaging (PEDONC-14.2)

References (PEDONC-14)

Pediatric Adrenocortical Carcinoma – General Considerations (PEDONC-14.1)

ONCP.AC.0014.1.A

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- Pediatric Adrenocortical Carcinoma (ACC) is a rare but aggressive tumor, with fewer than 25 cases diagnosed each year.
- Most individuals are diagnosed because of virilizing symptoms, Cushing syndrome, and rarely with feminization and hyperaldosteronism or detection on screening imaging recommended for specified cancer predisposition syndromes.
- See: **Li-Fraumeni Syndrome (LFS) (PEDONC-2.2)** and **Beckwith-Wiedemann Syndrome (BWS) (PEDONC-2.4)** for screening recommendations for individuals known to have these syndromes.

Pediatric ACC – Imaging (PEDONC-14.2)

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- CT Abdomen without and with contrast increases radiation exposure and should not be routinely performed in a child with an adrenal lesion as washout criteria have not been validated in children

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Initial staging	- CT Chest without contrast (CPT[®] 71250) or with (CPT[®] 71260) contrast - CT Abdomen with contrast (CPT[®] 74160) or MRI Abdomen without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74183) - Nuclear bone scan (see: (PEDONC-1.3) for coding)
- Solitary adrenal mass >4 cm on conventional imaging and plans for aggressive surgical resection - Inconclusive findings on conventional imaging	FDG PET/CT scan (CPT[®] 78815)
After complete resection, with no plans for chemotherapy or radiotherapy	See surveillance below
Restaging, for all unresected primary or metastatic disease on chemotherapy	- Every 2 cycles (~6 weeks) during chemotherapy, and following completion of all planned chemotherapy: - CT Chest without contrast (CPT[®] 71250) or with (CPT[®] 71260) contrast - CT Abdomen with contrast (CPT[®] 74160) or MRI Abdomen without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74183) - If positive for distant metastases at initial diagnosis: - Nuclear bone scan (see: (PEDONC-1.3) for coding) every 2 cycles (~6 weeks) during chemotherapy and following completion of all planned chemotherapy

Pediatric and Special Populations Oncology Imaging Guidelines (For Ohio Only):

CSRAD021OH.F

Effective: September 1, 2026

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan Coverage Determination Guideline

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Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging Study
Response assessment at the completion of radiotherapy	CT Abdomen with contrast (CPT[®] 74160) or MRI Abdomen without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74183)
Surveillance, individuals with only localized disease at diagnosis	- Every 3 months for 2 years, then every 6 months for 3 years: - CT Abdomen with contrast (CPT[®] 74160) or MRI Abdomen without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74183)
Surveillance, individuals with metastatic ACC	- Every 3 months for 2 years, then every 6 months for 3 years: - CT Chest without contrast (CPT[®] 71250) or with (CPT[®] 71260) contrast - CT Abdomen with contrast (CPT[®] 74160) or MRI Abdomen without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74183)
Recurrence	- CT Chest without contrast (CPT[®] 71250) or with (CPT[®] 71260) contrast - CT Abdomen with contrast (CPT[®] 74160) or MRI Abdomen without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74183)
Suspected bone recurrence	Nuclear bone scan (see: (PEDONC-1.3) for coding)

Background and Supporting Information

- The mainstay of treatment is surgery.
 - Chemotherapy, adrenal suppression, and radiotherapy typically follow resection.
 - Many ACC individuals are treated with surgery alone and do not receive adjuvant therapy. These individuals should be imaged using surveillance guidelines after surgery is completed.

References (PEDONC-14)

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Pediatric Melanoma and Other Skin Cancers (PEDONC-15)

Guideline

Pediatric Melanoma and Other Skin Cancers (PEDONC-15)
References (PEDONC-15)

Pediatric Melanoma and Other Skin Cancers (PEDONC-15)

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- Pediatric melanoma is historically rare but has a steadily rising incidence, especially in adolescents and young adults (AYAs). Staging is assigned using the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) staging for adult melanoma. Most cases of melanoma arising in children and AYAs (~75%) are localized at diagnosis, and approximately 90% of individuals with pediatric melanoma are amenable to radical excision. The clinical management of adolescents and young adults with melanoma is still challenging and evolving because it is difficult to diagnose, and there is no standard treatment.
- Non-melanoma skin cancers (mostly basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma) are extremely rare in pediatric individuals. In many cases, predisposing factors such as prolonged immunosuppression, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, voriconazole use, or a combination of the factors are present, and established age-specific guidelines for management of these skin tumors do not exist.
- Imaging guidelines and treatment approaches are consistent with those used for adults with melanoma and other skin cancers, and these individuals should follow the imaging guidelines in section **Melanomas and Other Skin Cancers (ONC-5)** in the Oncology Imaging Guidelines.

References (PEDONC-15)

v2.0.2026

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Pediatric Salivary Gland Tumors and Thyroid Tumors (PEDONC-16)

Guideline

Pediatric Salivary Gland Tumors and Thyroid Tumors (PEDONC-16)
References (PEDONC-16)

Pediatric Salivary Gland Tumors and Thyroid Tumors (PEDONC-16)

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Pediatric Salivary Gland Tumors

- The majority of pediatric salivary gland tumors arise in the parotid gland. Approximately 10% to 15% of tumors arise in the submandibular, sublingual, or minor salivary glands.
- Roughly 75% of pediatric salivary gland tumors are benign, most commonly pleomorphic adenoma.
- The most common malignant tumors occurring in the salivary glands are mucoepidermoid carcinoma, adenoid cystic carcinoma, acinic cell carcinoma, undifferentiated carcinoma, and rarely adenocarcinoma.
- American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) staging is used for pediatric as well as adult salivary gland tumors.
- Imaging and treatment guidelines for malignant pediatric salivary gland tumors are consistent with those used for adults with salivary gland tumors, and these individuals should follow the imaging guidelines in section **Salivary Gland Cancers (ONC-4)** in the Oncology Imaging Guidelines.

Pediatric Thyroid Tumors

- Differentiated thyroid cancers (DTC): Papillary, Follicular and Hürthle Cell are the most common childhood thyroid malignancy. Standard treatment is thyroidectomy and radioactive iodine (RAI).
- Imaging and treatment guidelines for malignant pediatric thyroid tumors are consistent with those used for adults with thyroid tumors, and these individuals should follow the imaging guidelines in section **Thyroid Cancers (ONC-6)** in the Oncology Imaging Guidelines.

References (PEDONC-16)

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Pediatric Breast Masses (PEDONC-17)

Guideline

Pediatric Breast Masses (PEDONC-17)

References (PEDONC-17)

Pediatric Breast Masses (PEDONC-17)

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- Ultrasound (CPT[®] 76641 and CPT[®] 76642) is the primary and medically necessary modality used for evaluation of pediatric breast masses.
- MRI has very limited utility in evaluation of pediatric breast masses prior to biopsy but may be indicated in rare cases for surgical planning when ultrasound is non-diagnostic.
- Pediatric individuals with confirmed breast cancer should be imaged according to section **Breast Cancer (ONC-11)** in the Oncology Imaging Guidelines.

Background and Supporting Information

- Less than 1% of pediatric breast lesions are malignant, and advanced imaging is generally not recommended without histological confirmation of malignancy.
- Mammography has limited utility in pediatric breast mass evaluation due to the high mammographic breast density in this age group, and the risk of the radiation exposure outweighs the benefit of this modality. As a result, mammography is NOT recommended for evaluation of pediatric or adolescent breast masses.
 - BI-RADS classification may overstate the risk of malignancy or need for biopsy in pediatric individuals.

References (PEDONC-17)

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Histiocytic Disorders (PEDONC-18)

Guideline

Histiocytic Disorders – General Considerations (PEDONC-18.1)

Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis (LCH) (PEDONC-18.2)

Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis (HLH) (PEDONC-18.3)

Non-Langerhans Cell Histiocytoses (PEDONC-18.4)

References (PEDONC-18)

Histiocytic Disorders – General Considerations (PEDONC-18.1)

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- The majority of histiocytic disorders occurring in the pediatric population are either Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis (LCH) or Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis (HLH).
- The Non-Langerhans cell histiocytoses encompass a variety of diseases and have limited imaging considerations except as specified later in this section.
- Where there are indications for PET/CT in these guidelines, please note that indications and coding for rare circumstances where PET/MRI may be approved are found in **PET Imaging in Pediatric Oncology (PEDONC-1.4)**
- PEDONC-18 applies to individuals of all ages.
- The use of PET in this guideline refers to Fluorodeoxyglucose (fluorine-18-2-fluoro-2-deoxy-D-glucose [FDG]) radiotracer only.

Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis (LCH) (PEDONC-18.2)

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LCH Medically Necessary Initial Imaging:

- Whole-body PET/CT (CPT[®] 78816)
 - Whole-body Tc-99m bone scan (CPT[®] 78306) if PET is unavailable
- CT Chest with contrast (CPT[®] 71260) **or** high-resolution CT Chest without contrast (CPT[®] 71250) in addition to PET/CT for suspected pulmonary LCH based on ANY of the following:
 - Abnormal CXR
 - Symptoms of pulmonary involvement and normal CXR
 - Clarification of pulmonary findings on PET/CT
- MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) for ANY of the following:
 - Headaches or visual or neurologic disturbances
 - Polyuria/polydipsia or other endocrine abnormalities
 - Skull or craniofacial (including jaw) bone involvement
 - Otorrhea or hearing loss (CT Temporal Bone may be substituted if requested)
 - Other signs or symptoms suggesting intracranial involvement, including neurodegeneration syndrome
- CTA/MRA Head (CPT[®] 70496/70544) for operative planning or image guidance
- CT Abdomen and/or Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177, 74160, or 72193) for ANY of the following:
 - Abdominal and/or pelvic signs and symptoms **if PET/CT has not been performed** or to clarify abnormal abdominal/pelvic findings on PET/CT
 - Abdominal and/or pelvic findings on ultrasound if PET/CT has not been performed
- MRI Abdomen without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74183) for any of the following:
 - Elevated liver function tests (usually >5X upper limit of normal)
 - Abnormalities seen on abdominal ultrasound or CT
- MRI Spine without and with contrast (Cervical-CPT[®] 72156, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72157, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72158) for ANY of the following **if PET/CT has not been performed**:
 - Vertebral lesions seen on skeletal survey
 - Clinical symptoms (including back pain) suggesting spinal involvement and negative skeletal survey

LCH Medically Necessary Treatment Response Imaging:

- Both PET/CT and CT with contrast or MRI without and with contrast **only** for simultaneous treatment response evaluation with specific documentation showing that both are necessary (i.e., not for purpose of acquiring a PET/MRI)
- CT and/or MRI and/or PET/CT (if modality showed disease at initial diagnosis):
 - After 2-3 cycles of treatment
 - At completion of therapy (approximately 12 weeks) for individuals with persistent disease on cycle 2-3 imaging
 - After surgical curettage (CT or MRI of involved area, not repeat PET)
 - After radiation therapy
- Following the initial phase, treatment response evaluation of **involved sites** with CT with contrast or MRI with and without contrast, every ~3 months while receiving active treatment and at completion of therapy.
 - PET/CT for inconclusive conventional imaging, if disease was previously only measured/measurable on PET/CT, or for change from active treatment to surveillance
 - Shorter interval imaging for documented signs or symptoms concerning for disease progression

LCH Medically Necessary Surveillance Imaging:

- Surveillance imaging is determined by areas of disease involvement.
 - Bone involvement
 - Single site bone disease
 - Every 3 months for 1 year after completion of therapy:
 - PET/CT (CPT® 78815 or CPT® 78816)
 - OR
 - CT or MRI contrast as requested of involved bony areas
 - Multifocal bone disease
 - Every 3 months for 2 years, then no more than annually:
 - PET/CT (CPT® 78815 or CPT® 78816)
 - OR
 - CT or MRI contrast as requested of involved bony areas
- Skull or craniofacial (including jaw) bone involvement should be imaged according to CNS involvement section below.

Individuals with lung, CNS, and/or liver involvement are considered to have high-risk disease and warrant site-specific diagnostic imaging in addition to PET/CT as outlined below:

- Pulmonary involvement

- CT Chest with (CPT[®] 71260) **or** without contrast (CPT[®] 71250) every 6 months for the first 2 years post completion of therapy for any of the following:
 - Individuals with a history of pulmonary involvement
 - Individuals with new respiratory or chest symptoms
 - New findings on CXR
- AND
- PET/CT (CPT[®] 78815 or CPT[®] 78816) every 6 months for 2 years, then no more than annually
- CNS involvement
 - PET/CT (CPT[®] 78815 or CPT[®] 78816) every 6 months for 2 years, then no more than annually
- AND
- MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) at 6 weeks, and then every 6 months for 2 years after completion of all therapy for previously documented measurable intracranial lesions
 - If negative after two years, MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) at 4, 7, and 10 years after completion of all planned therapy
 - If residual measurable intracranial lesions are present at 6 months, imaging repeated every 3 months until negative or unchanged on two consecutive studies, at which time the schedule in the previous bullet should begin
- MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) for documented hypothalamic-pituitary dysfunction every 6 months for 2 years and at 4, 7, and 10 years after completion of all planned therapy
 - MRI at any time for worsening neurologic symptoms
- Intraspinal lesions imaged according to the same timeframes as brain imaging using MRI without and with contrast of all involved spine levels
- Liver involvement
 - For individuals with a history of liver involvement, ONE of the following every 6 months for 2 years after completion of all therapy:
 - Ultrasound Abdomen (CPT[®] 76700)
 - CT Abdomen with contrast (CPT[®] 74160)
 - MRI Abdomen without and with contrast (CPT[®] 74183)
- AND
- PET/CT (CPT[®] 78815 or CPT[®] 78816) every 6 months for 2 years, then no more than annually
- Suspected recurrence or inconclusive findings on any surveillance imaging:
 - All imaging studies supported for initial workup including whole-body PET/CT (CPT[®] 78816)

Background and Supporting Information

- This guideline may be used for all ages of individuals.
- LCH includes a heterogeneous group of disorders formerly known by other names, including histiocytosis X, eosinophilic granuloma, Letterer-Siwe Disease, Hand-Schuller-Christian Disease, and diffuse reticuloendotheliosis. LCH has a widely variable clinical presentation, ranging from single indolent lesions to disseminated multisystem disease.
- Most common sites of involvement are skin, bones, liver, lung, and pituitary, though other sites are possible.
- Individuals with localized or single site disease are often treated only with local therapies or observed, and should be imaged according to surveillance guidelines
- Individuals receiving systemic therapy will usually undergo treatment for ~12 months. Treatment response is assessed using any modalities showing disease at initial diagnosis after ~6 weeks of treatment.
- Skull or craniofacial (including jaw) bone involvement at diagnosis are at higher risk for CNS recurrence
- CNS LCH has a particularly high rate of refractory and recurrent disease, and requires longer imaging surveillance
- Liver involvement
 - Persistent liver involvement is rare, and imaging after completion of LCH therapy will be highly individualized depending on degree of liver dysfunction and plans for supportive therapy or liver transplant

Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis (HLH) (PEDONC-18.3)

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- As imaging for this condition is usually done on an urgent basis, ANY or ALL of the following are medically necessary for the initial evaluation of HLH include:
 - Ultrasound Abdomen (CPT[®] 76700)
 - CT Abdomen and/or Pelvis (contrast as requested)
 - MRI Abdomen (CPT[®] 74183) and/or Pelvis (CPT[®] 72197) without and with contrast
 - Chest x-ray
 - CT Chest with contrast (CPT[®] 71260)
 - MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553)
 - CTA/MRA Head (CPT[®] 70496/CPT[®] 70544) for operative planning or image guidance
 - CT Sinus without or with contrast (CPT[®] 70486 or CPT[®] 70487) if clinical suspicion for sinus disease
- Whole-body PET/CT (CPT[®] 78816) for the purpose of identifying a site for tissue diagnosis of a primary source of infection or malignancy if conventional imaging has been completed and is unrevealing
 - If a malignancy is identified as the inciting factor for HLH, additional imaging decisions for that malignancy should be based on the appropriate diagnosis-specific guidelines

Background and Supporting Information

- There are no standard imaging studies required for the diagnosis and initial evaluation of HLH. Most cases are diagnosed with a combination of physical findings, laboratory testing, and bone marrow evaluation. Advanced imaging studies may be necessary to assess organ dysfunction as HLH commonly affects the liver, spleen, and bone marrow, and less commonly the kidneys, lungs, and brain
- It is NOT required to perform ultrasound or plain film in a stepwise fashion if CT or MRI is planned as individuals with HLH can deteriorate rapidly
- There is no established standard role for PET in the diagnosis or treatment response evaluation of HLH
 - Secondary HLH is very difficult to treat if the primary cause is not concurrently treated

Non-Langerhans Cell Histiocytoses (PEDONC-18.4)

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Juvenile Xanthogranuloma (JXG) medically necessary imaging:

- Skin and/or cervical nodes:
 - CT with contrast of appropriate area
- Systemic JXG with multi-organ involvement:
 - MRI Brain (CPT[®] 70553) **and/or** Orbits (CPT[®] 70543) without and with contrast
 - CT Neck (CPT[®] 70491), Chest (CPT[®] 71260), **and/or** Abdomen (CPT[®] 74160) with contrast
 - CTA/MRA Head (CPT[®] 70496/CPT[®] 70544) may be approved as part of operative planning or image guidance
- There is no established role for PET in the diagnosis or treatment of JXG

Rosai-Dorfman Disease (RDD) medically necessary imaging:

- RDD Initial Imaging Studies:
 - MRI Brain (CPT[®] 70553) and/or Orbits (CPT[®] 70543) without and with contrast
 - CTA/MRA Head (CPT[®] 70496/CPT[®] 70544) for operative planning or image guidance
 - CT Neck (CPT[®] 70491), Chest (CPT[®] 71260) and/or Abdomen/Pelvis (CPT[®] 74177) with contrast **if PET/CT not performed** or to follow up unclear findings in said body areas on PET/CT
 - CT Sinus without or with contrast (CPT[®] 70486 or CPT[®] 70487) if clinical suspicion for sinus disease and **PET/CT not performed** or to follow up unclear sinus findings on PET/CT
 - Whole-body PET/CT (CPT[®] 78816) after histologic confirmation of diagnosis
- RDD Treatment Response:
 - Treatment response imaging after 2-3 cycles of systemic therapy during active treatment using any modalities showing disease at diagnosis, including PET/CT.
 - Once PET/CT is negative, conventional imaging with other modalities that revealed disease at presentation for subsequent restaging at completion of chemotherapy and/or radiation and/or after surgical resection.
- RDD Surveillance Imaging:
 - PET/CT (CPT[®] 78816) every 3 months until stabilization of disease (two PET/CT with stable disease status).

- Further surveillance imaging of single-site bone disease:
 - Every 6 months using any modalities showing disease at initial diagnosis (excluding PET/CT) for 1 year
 - PET/CT is not medically necessary for routine surveillance of RDD but is medically necessary if conventional imaging is inconclusive for suspected recurrence.
- Further surveillance imaging of multifocal bone disease:
 - Every 6 months using any modalities showing disease at initial diagnosis (excluding PET/CT) thereafter
 - PET/CT is not medically necessary for routine surveillance of RDD but is medically necessary if conventional imaging is inconclusive for suspected recurrence.

Erdheim-Chester Disease (ECD) medically necessary imaging:

- ECD Initial Imaging Studies:
 - PET/CT Whole Body (CPT[®] 78816)
 - Nuclear bone scan (See: **PEDONC-1.3: Modality General Considerations**) in lieu of PET if requested
 - MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) **and/or** MRI Orbits (CPT[®] 70543) without and with contrast for CNS symptoms, including diabetes insipidus
 - CTA/MRA Head (CPT[®] 70496/70544) for operative planning or image guidance
 - CT Neck (CPT[®] 70491), Chest (CPT[®] 71260) **and/or** Abdomen/Pelvis (CPT[®] 74177) with contrast **if PET/CT not performed** or if inconclusive findings in said body area on PET/CT
 - Cardiac MRI without and with contrast (CPT[®] 75561) for clinically suspected cardiac involvement
 - CT Sinus without or with contrast (CPT[®] 70486 or CPT[®] 70487) if clinical suspicion for sinus disease **if PET/CT not performed** or inconclusive sinus findings on PET/CT
- ECD Treatment Response:
 - Treatment response imaging every 3 months during active treatment using any modalities showing disease at initial diagnosis, including PET/CT
 - Once PET/CT shows no remaining FDG-avid lesions, additional PET imaging is only when conventional imaging studies are inconclusive and acute treatment decisions will be made based on PET results.
- ECD Surveillance Imaging:
 - CT **and/or** MRI **and/or** Nuclear bone scan **and/or** CTA **and/or** MRA **and/or** Cardiac MRI (if modality showed disease at initial diagnosis) every 3 months until the first year after completion of treatment and then every 6 months
 - PET/CT if conventional imaging is inconclusive for suspected recurrence.

Background and Supporting Information

- Non-Langerhans Cell histiocytoses includes diagnoses such as juvenile xanthogranuloma (JXG), sinus histiocytosis with lymphadenopathy (Rosai-Dorfman Disease, RDD), and Erdheim-Chester Disease (ECD)
- In general, these are localized cutaneous or nodal disease without need for regular advanced imaging, but important exceptions are listed in this section.
- Juvenile Xanthogranuloma (JXG):
 - Generally involves only skin or cervical nodes, and involutes spontaneously
- Rosai-Dorfman Disease (RDD):
 - Characterized by bulky adenopathy (usually cervical) with frequent systemic involvement
 - There is no established role for routine surveillance imaging of asymptomatic individuals after treatment for RDD
- Erdheim-Chester Disease (ECD):
 - An aggressive histiocytic disorder with overall poor prognosis that is characterized by long bone involvement with frequent spread to multiple organs
 - Most individuals will receive systemic therapy
 - Once PET/CT shows no remaining FDG-avid lesions, additional PET imaging is not indicated unless conventional imaging studies are inconclusive and acute treatment decisions will be made based on PET results.

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Pediatric and Special Populations Oncology Imaging Guidelines (For Ohio Only):

CSRAD021OH.F

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UnitedHealthcare Community Plan Coverage Determination Guideline

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Long Term Pediatric Cancer Survivors (PEDONC-19)

Guideline

Long Term Pediatric Cancer Survivors – General Considerations (PEDONC-19.1)
Cardiotoxicity and Echocardiography (PEDONC-19.2)
Second Malignant Neoplasms (SMN) (PEDONC-19.3)
Osteonecrosis in Long Term Cancer Survivors (PEDONC-19.4)
CNS vascular changes in pediatric cancer survivors following CNS radiation
(PEDONC-19.5)
References (PEDONC-19)

Long Term Pediatric Cancer Survivors – General Considerations (PEDONC-19.1)

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- This section applies to individuals who have passed the end of the surveillance imaging period for their specific cancer, or 5 years after completion of therapy, whichever occurs first.
- As these are long-term survivors, many individuals falling under this guideline section will have reached adult age. However, these guidelines relate specifically to late effects of childhood cancer treatment and should be applied to all long-term childhood cancer survivors regardless of current age.
- The Children's Oncology Group has published comprehensive guidelines for the management of long-term childhood cancer survivors, and these are available at: <http://www.survivorshipguidelines.org>.
- A summary of cancer treatment should be available for all individuals in this category and should generally include, at minimum:
 - type of cancer and stage
 - dates of diagnosis, recurrence, cancer-related surgeries, beginning and end dates of chemotherapy, radiotherapy, and/or stem cell transplant
 - protocol number used for treatment and cumulative chemotherapy drug dose exposures
 - cumulative radiation dose, fraction number, modality, and field exposure
- Annual detailed history and complete physical examination is a critical component of cancer survivorship care and along with laboratory testing serves as the primary method of screening for the majority of late effects.
- Advanced imaging for asymptomatic screening is not routinely indicated except as specified in this section.
- Imaging requests related to new clinical signs or symptoms in a long term cancer survivor not explicitly covered in this section should be reviewed according to the guideline for the individual's cancer type or the relevant non-malignant clinical problem.

Cardiotoxicity and Echocardiography (PEDONC-19.2)

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- Screening echocardiography (CPT[®] 93306, CPT[®] 93307, or CPT[®] 93308) for life after exposure to anthracycline chemotherapy, cardiotoxic immunotherapy, or cardiac exposure to radiotherapy

MEDICALLY NECESSARY SCREENING ECHOCARDIOGRAM INDICATIONS			
Age at Time of Exposure	Cumulative Doxorubicin Equivalent Dose	Cumulative Radiation Dose to Cardiac Muscle	Echocardiogram Frequency
All ages	None	None	None
0-0.99 years	≥250 mg/m ²	None	Annual
	0-249 mg/m ²	Any dose	Annual
	0-249 mg/m ²	None	Every 2 years
1-4.99 years	≥250 mg/m ²	Any dose	Annual
	0-249 mg/m ²	15+ Gy	Annual
		0-14.99 Gy	Every 2 years
	None	35+ Gy	Annual
		15-34.99 Gy	Every 2 years
		0-14.99 Gy	Every 5 years
5+ years	≥250 mg/m ²	Any dose	Every 2 years
	0-249 mg/m ²	15+ Gy	Every 2 years

MEDICALLY NECESSARY SCREENING ECHOCARDIOGRAM INDICATIONS			
Age at Time of Exposure	Cumulative Doxorubicin Equivalent Dose	Cumulative Radiation Dose to Cardiac Muscle	Echocardiogram Frequency
		0-14.99 Gy	Every 5 years
	None	35+ Gy	Every 2 years
		15-34.99 Gy	Every 5 years
		0-14.99 Gy	None
All ages with known ventricular dysfunction			Annual

- Stress echocardiography is not medically necessary as a screening study for anthracyclines cardiotoxicity in the absence of coronary artery disease symptoms. See **Stress Testing with Imaging – Indications (CD-1.4)** for imaging guidelines.
- Female cancer survivors who are pregnant or planning to become pregnant:
 - If any of the following are present, echocardiogram is medically necessary as a baseline exam and in the 3rd trimester, and as clinically indicated for symptoms (see **Pregnancy – Maternal Imaging (CD-11.4)** in the Cardiology Imaging Guidelines) if ANY of the following are present:
 - Anthracycline or cardiotoxic chemotherapy/immunotherapy exposure
 - chest radiotherapy

Background and Supporting Information

- Exposure to cardiotoxic anthracycline chemotherapy agents is common in pediatric oncology due to the high success rate of this drug class in the treatment of pediatric cancers.
- Cardiac risk is assessed based on the age of the individual at the time of treatment initiation, the cumulative drug exposure expressed as doxorubicin equivalent mg/m², and the presence or absence of radiotherapy exposure to cardiac muscle.

Second Malignant Neoplasms (SMN) (PEDONC-19.3)

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SMN—Breast Cancer

Clinical breast exam every 6 months supplemented with the following medically necessary imaging:

- MRI Breast (CPT[®] 77049) annually and annual mammogram beginning at age 25 or 8 years after completion of radiotherapy (whichever occurs later- screening breast MRI is not supported prior to age 25) for individuals who received therapeutic radiation exposure in the following fields while they were under 30 years of age:
 - Chest (thorax)
 - Whole lung
 - Mediastinal
 - Axilla
 - Mini-mantle, mantle, or extended mantle
 - Total (TLI) or subtotal (SLTI) lymphoid irradiation
 - Total body irradiation (TBI)

SMN – CNS Tumors

- Routine surveillance of asymptomatic individuals with normal neurologic exams is not supported by evidence and is therefore not medically necessary, with the exception of NF1 and NF2 below:
 - MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) is medically necessary every 2 years after completion of radiotherapy for individuals with NF1 or NF2.
- MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) is medically necessary for any individual with history of brain radiotherapy and new neurologic symptoms, including simple headache.
- MRI Cervical (CPT[®] 72156), Thoracic (CPT[®] 72157), and Lumbar Spine (CPT[®] 72158) without and with contrast are medically necessary for any individual with history of spine radiotherapy and new neurologic symptoms including change in quality of pain.
 - MRI Spine with contrast only (Cervical-CPT[®] 72142, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72147, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72149) is medically necessary if being performed immediately following a contrast-enhanced MRI Brain.

- MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) is medically necessary annually for individuals with history of brain radiotherapy and persistent neurologic symptoms.
- MRI Cervical (CPT[®] 72156), Thoracic (CPT[®] 72157), and Lumbar Spine (CPT[®] 72158) without and with contrast is medically necessary annually for individuals with history of spine radiotherapy and persistent neurologic symptoms.
 - MRI Spine with contrast only (Cervical-CPT[®] 72142, Thoracic-CPT[®] 72147, Lumbar-CPT[®] 72149) is medically necessary if being performed immediately following a contrast-enhanced MRI Brain.

SMN—Colorectal Cancer

- Advanced imaging is not medically necessary. See: *Background and Supporting Information* section for recommended surveillance.

Background and Supporting Information

- SMN—Breast Cancer:
 - Clinical breast exam every 6 months supplemented with advanced imaging
- SMN-CNS Tumors:
 - These are associated with radiation exposure to the brain and with neurofibromatosis
 - Routine surveillance of asymptomatic individuals with normal neurologic exams is not supported by evidence, with the exception of NF1 and NF2 listed above
- SMN—Colorectal Cancer:
 - Colonoscopy is recommended every 5 years beginning at age 30 or 5 years after radiation exposure (whichever is later) for individuals with ≥30 Gy radiation exposure to the following fields:
 - Thoracic, Lumbar, Sacral, or Whole Spine
 - Abdomen
 - Pelvis
 - Total body irradiation (TBI)
 - Colonoscopy is also recommended every 5 years beginning at age 30 or 5 years after radiation exposure (whichever is later) for individuals with:
 - Personal history of ulcerative colitis, GI malignancy, adenomatous polyps, or hepatoblastoma
 - Familial polyposis
 - Family history of colorectal cancer or polyps in a first degree (parent or sibling) relative
- While the American Cancer Society recently added computed tomographic colonography (CTC) (AKA “Virtual Colonoscopy”) as an acceptable option for colorectal cancer screening of average-risk adults, the National Comprehensive Cancer Network and United States Preventive Services Task Force concluded that

data was too premature to warrant its use in screening. Colonoscopy remains the preferred screening modality for survivors at highest risk of colorectal cancer

Osteonecrosis in Long Term Cancer Survivors (PEDONC-19.4)

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Osteonecrosis is associated with corticosteroid, chemotherapy, and radiation exposure during treatment for ALL, NHL, and allogeneic HSCT in pediatrics. Osteonecrosis occurs primarily in hips, knees, and ankles and is frequently multifocal.

Osteoradionecrosis of the jaw can occur in individuals receiving radiotherapy to the mandible or maxilla; those receiving ≥ 40 Gy are at highest risk. Although unusual, it can also occur in any bone without symptoms. It is rare in other disease types.

- Plain films of symptomatic areas are indicated prior to advanced imaging.
- Routine bone density screening using DEXA or Quantitative CT screening has not been well normalized in the pediatric population, but imaging is medically necessary for those with symptoms to suggest bone density issues
 - DEXA or Quantitative CT screening is not medically necessary until age 18 unless a surgery, core decompression, or initiation of osteoporosis drugs will be planned based on the imaging results.
- Serial advanced imaging is not medically necessary in osteonecrosis without specific documentation regarding how the advanced imaging will change current individual management.
 - When advanced imaging is necessary for acute management decisions, MRI without contrast of the affected area(s) is medically necessary.
 - Surveillance imaging of asymptomatic individuals to detect osteonecrosis is not medically necessary as it has not been shown to impact individual outcomes, and it is not standard to alter treatment based on imaging findings alone without symptoms.
 - Follow-up MRI of incidentally discovered osteonecrosis findings in asymptomatic individuals has not been shown to impact individual outcomes and is not medically necessary.
 - For known osteonecrosis with articular collapse on other imaging, CT without contrast of area of interest is medically necessary for surgical planning.
- See: **Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL) (PEDONC-3.2)** for information on imaging osteonecrosis in ALL during active treatment.

CNS vascular changes in pediatric cancer survivors following CNS radiation (PEDONC-19.5)

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Children receiving cranial radiation are at increased risk of cerebrovascular complications, including: hemorrhagic and ischemic stroke, moyamoya, occlusive vasculopathy, and cavernomas. These complications may occur months to years after radiation exposure.

- MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) and MRA Head (CPT[®] 70544, 70545, or 70546) are medically necessary for all individuals of any age with new neurologic symptoms or headache and a history of cranial irradiation.
- MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70553) and MRA Head (CPT[®] 70544, 70545, or 70546) are medically necessary annually for 10 years post treatment in individuals with a history of cranial irradiation and any of the following additional risk factors:
 - Down syndrome, sickle cell disease, or neurofibromatosis 1 or 2
 - Parasellar or suprasellar tumors (i.e., craniopharyngioma)
 - Radiation dose >50 Gy
 - Radiation field involving Circle of Willis

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Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation (HSCT) (PEDONC-20)

Guideline

General Considerations (PEDONC-20.0)
Pre-Transplant Imaging (PEDONC-20.1)
Post-Transplant Imaging (PEDONC-20.2)
References (PEDONC-20)

General Considerations (PEDONC-20.0)

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Transplant Types:

- **Allogeneic (“allo”):** The donor and recipient are different people, and there are multiple types depending on the source of the stem cells and degree of match between donor and recipient. This is most commonly used in diseases originating in the hematopoietic system, such as leukemias and lymphomas, and bone marrow failure syndromes or metabolic disorders. **The goal is to replace the hematopoietic and immune system with healthy donor cells to treat the disease.** Common types are:
 - **Matched sibling donor (MSD or MRD):** Donor and recipient are full siblings and HLA-matched
 - **Matched unrelated donor (MUD):** Donor and recipient are HLA matched but not related to each other
 - **Cord blood:** Donor stem cells come from frozen umbilical cord blood not related to the recipient, sometimes from multiple different donors at once
 - **Haploidentical transplant (haplo):** Donor is a half-HLA match to the recipient, usually a parent
- **Autologous (“auto”):** The donor and recipient are the same person. The process involves delivery of high dose chemotherapy that is ablative to the bone marrow, followed by an infusion of one’s own harvested stem cells. This is primarily done in the context of solid tumors and the stem cells mainly rescue hematopoiesis to facilitate high-dose chemotherapy.
- **Allogeneic HSCT** results in a much greater degree of immunosuppression than autologous HSCT because of the need to allow the new immune system to chimerize with the recipient’s body. Immune reconstitution commonly takes more than a year for individuals who receive allogeneic HSCT, and individuals remain at high risk for invasive infections until that has occurred. In addition, patients may require prolonged immunosuppression for prevention and management of graft-vs-host disease.
- Recipients of autologous transplant are deeply immunosuppressed until complete count recovery, which may take several months. Graft-vs-host disease is not a consideration in auto transplants because the host is also the donor.

Pre-Transplant Imaging (PEDONC-20.1)

ONCP.HT.0020.1.A

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- Disease status assessment may be approved per individual disease guidelines if it has been 6 weeks or more between end of treatment imaging and HSCT or if there are signs and symptoms of disease progression.

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging
Immediate pre-transplant period - screening for active or occult infection	• CT Chest with contrast or CT Chest without contrast (CPT[®] 71250 or CPT[®] 71260) ◦ CT Abdomen with contrast (CPT[®] 74160) for asymptomatic individuals if chest infection or disease is identified on CT Chest or for signs and symptoms of active abdominal infection including fever. ◦ CT Pelvis for pelvic signs and symptoms with CPT[®] 74177 or CPT[®] 72193 if abdominal imaging has already been performed. • CT Sinus (CPT[®] 70486) is not medically necessary for screening prior to HSCT, but is medically necessary for signs or symptoms of infectious or disease involvement of the sinuses
Individuals at risk of developing VOD, for pre-transplant baseline	• Abdominal ultrasound +/- Doppler (CPT[®] 76700 or 76705 +/- 93975)
Individuals with history of multiple blood transfusions at risk of iron overload, for iron quantification baseline	• CPT[®] codes as listed in <u>Transfusion-Associated (Secondary) Hemochromatosis (PEDAB-18.2)</u> in the immediate pre-transplant period even if done in the previous 12 months.
Suspected renal tubular dysfunction	• Nuclear renal imaging (CPT[®] 78700, CPT[®] 78701, CPT[®] 78707, CPT[®] 78708, CPT[®] 78709)

Background and Supporting Information

- CT Sinus screening is not routinely recommended as two studies showed no utility and no effect on surgical consults.
- Changes from baseline abdominal ultrasound with regard to veno-occlusive disease (VOD) are more predictive than absolute measurements and thus baseline imaging is supported.
- Pre-transplant liver and cardiac iron levels are associated with adverse transplant outcomes and a baseline is supported for further management.

Post-Transplant Imaging (PEDONC-20.2)

ONCP.HT.0020.2.A

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Early post-transplant complication (<100 days post HSCT):

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging
For signs and symptoms of pulmonary infection or pulmonary edema or new CXR abnormalities	- CT Chest without or with contrast (CPT[®] 71250 or CPT[®] 71260) - For PET/CT requests to clarify infection vs malignancy, see disease-specific guidelines for equivocal conventional imaging
Suspected impending lung necrosis on other imaging	MRI Chest without and with contrast (CPT[®] 71552)
- EITHER of the following: - Suspected graft vs. host disease (GVHD) of chest - Bronchiolitis Obliterans (BOOP/BOS)	High-resolution CT Chest without contrast (CPT[®] 71250)
- ANY of the following: - Suspected intra-abdominal and or pelvic infection (including cystitis or typhlitis) - Suspected small bowel GVHD	- Abdominal Ultrasound (CPT[®] 76700 or CPT[®] 76705) +/- Pelvic Ultrasound (CPT[®] 76856 or CPT[®] 76857) - CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177) for unclear findings on ultrasound
High clinical suspicion for intra-abdominal fungal infection	CT Abdomen and Pelvis with contrast (CPT[®] 74177)
Suspected hepatic veno-occlusive disease (VOD)	Ultrasound elastography (CPT[®] 91200) or Abdominal Ultrasound with Doppler (CPT[®] 76700 or CPT[®] 76705)

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging
Suspected CNS complication including infection, hemorrhage, thrombosis, or encephalopathy	- MRI Brain without contrast or MRI Brain without and with contrast (CPT[®] 70551 or CPT[®] 70553) - CT Head without contrast (CPT[®] 70450) in the emergent setting or for suspected acute hemorrhage - Acute CT should not preclude subsequent MRI imaging - For additional imaging for suspected stroke, see: Pediatric Stroke Initial Imaging (PEDHD-12.2) in the Pediatric Head Imaging guidelines
Suspected musculoskeletal abscess or necrotizing fasciitis	See: Pediatric Infection/Osteomyelitis (PEDMS-8) in the Pediatric Musculoskeletal Imaging guidelines
Fever of unknown origin (8 or more days of temperature 38.0 C/100.4 F or higher)	PET/CT skull to thigh (CPT[®] 78815) if site-specific conventional imaging, microbiologic serologic studies, echocardiogram, urinalysis, and urine culture are all non-diagnostic

Late post-transplant complication imaging (100 or more days post HSCT):

Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging
CNS complications	Same imaging as for early post-transplant
Chest complications	Same imaging as for early post-transplant
Hepatic VOD	Same imaging as for early post-transplant
Chronic GI GVHD	- CT Abdomen and Pelvis (CPT[®] 74177) - MR Enterography (CPT[®] 74183 and CPT[®] 72197) for suspected small bowel GVHD
Suspected renal tubular dysfunction	Nuclear renal imaging (CPT[®] 78700, CPT[®] 78701, CPT[®] 78707, CPT[®] 78708, CPT[®] 78709)

Pediatric and Special Populations Oncology Imaging Guidelines (For Ohio Only):

CSRAD021OH.F

Effective: September 1, 2026

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan Coverage Determination Guideline

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Indication	Medically Necessary Imaging
Suspected poor bone mineral density or osteonecrosis	See: <u>Osteonecrosis in Long Term Cancer Survivors (PEDONC-19.4)</u>
Suspected PTLD	See: <u>Post-Transplant Lymphoproliferative Disorder (PTLD) (PEDONC 5.3)</u>

References (PEDONC-20)

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2. Kaste SC, Kaufman RA, Sunkara A, et. al. Routine pre- and post-hematopoietic stem cell transplant computed tomography of the abdomen for detecting invasive fungal infection has limited value. *Biol Blood Marrow Transplant*. 2015;21(6):1132-5. doi: 10.1016/j.bbmt.2015.02.023.
3. PDQ® Pediatric Treatment Editorial Board. PDQ Pediatric Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation and Cellular Therapy for Cancer. Bethesda, MD: National Cancer Institute. Updated 06/13/2024. Available at: <https://www.cancer.gov/types/childhood-cancers/hp-stem-cell-transplant>.

Policy History and Instructions for Use

Guideline

Policy History and Instructions for Use

Policy History and Instructions for Use

Policy History and Instructions for Use v2.0.2026

Instructions for Use

This Medical Policy provides assistance in interpreting United HealthCare Services, Inc. standard benefit plans. When deciding coverage, the federal, state (Ohio Administrative Code [OAC]) or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage must be referenced as the terms of the federal, state (OAC) or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage may differ from the standard benefit plan. In the event of a conflict, the federal, state (OAC) or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage govern.

Before using this policy, please check the federal, state (OAC) or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage. United HealthCare Services, Inc. reserves the right to modify its Policies and Guidelines as necessary. This Medical Policy is provided for informational purposes. It does not constitute medical advice.

United HealthCare Services, Inc. uses InterQual[®] for the primary medical/surgical criteria, and the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) for substance use, in administering health benefits. If InterQual[®] does not have applicable criteria, United HealthCare Services, Inc. may also use United HealthCare Services, Inc.'s Medical Policies, Coverage Determination Guidelines, and/or Utilization Review Guidelines that have been approved by the Ohio Department for Medicaid Services. The United HealthCare Services, Inc.'s Medical Policies, Coverage Determination Guidelines, and Utilization Review Guidelines are intended to be used in connection with the independent professional medical judgment of a qualified health care provider and do not constitute the practice of medicine or medical advice.

Policy History/Revision Information

Date	Summary of Changes
02/01/2024	Annual evidence-based updates
07/01/2024	Interim evidence-based updates
05/01/2025	Annual evidence-based updates
11/06/2025	Annual evidence-based updates
05/07/2026	Interim evidence-based updates