

CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL

CHAPTER: 2
SECTION: 3.7
TITLE: HELIUM ION BEAM RADIOSURGERY

AUTHORITY: 38 USC 1713; 38 CFR 17.270(a) and 17.272(a)

RELATED AUTHORITY: 32 CFR 199.4(a) and (b)

TRICARE POLICY MANUAL: Chapter 4, Section 4.8

I. EFFECTIVE DATE

January 1, 1996

II. DESCRIPTION

Helium ion beam radiosurgery is a type of charged particle radiosurgery. Helium ion beams are generated using cyclotrons. The cyclotron beam is fixed in location and in order to create the multiple intersecting beam paths of stereotactic radiosurgery, the patient is rotated. The most important physical characteristic of radiation from a charged particle is the Bragg effect which causes much of the kinetic energy of the beam to be deposited at a predictable depth within the body and very little beyond. This effect reduces radiation applied to specified areas of normal tissue.

III. POLICY

Helium ion beam radiosurgery may be considered for cost-sharing for the following indications:

1. As primary therapy for patients with melanoma of the uveal tract, with no evidence of metastasis or extrascleral extension, and with tumors up to 24 mm in largest diameter and 14 mm in height.
2. As postoperative therapy in patients who have undergone biopsy or partial resection of the chordoma or low grade (I or II) chondrosarcoma of the basisphenoid region (skull-base chordoma or chondrosarcoma) or cervical spine.

IV. EXCLUSIONS

Helium ion beam radiosurgery is considered unproven for arteriovenous malformations.

END OF POLICY