

# Proton Beam Therapy

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## Prostate Cancer

There is as yet no good comparative data to determine whether or not Proton Beam Therapy for prostate cancer is superior, inferior, or equivalent to external beam radiation, IMRT, or brachytherapy in terms of safety or efficacy.

**The prostate cancer should be locally contained and not be an advanced prostate cancer** (i.e. T3 or T4 where the tumor has spread through the capsule or has invaded seminal vesicles or other structures) and not any N disease (i.e. no spread to lymph nodes or there has been spread to the pelvic lymph nodes). Note: spread into pelvic lymph nodes is considered metastatic disease.

**Coverage and payments of Proton Beam Therapy for prostate cancer will require:**

**a. Physician documentation of patient selection criteria (stage and other factors as represented in the NCCN guidelines); and**

**a. Documentation and verification that the patient was informed of the range of therapy choices, including risks and benefits.**

Other factors considered favorable for coverage include enrollment of the patient in an appropriate clinical registry for planned assessment and publication, clinical trials.

