



## Radiofrequency Ablation Treatment for Benign Tumors

LOB(s): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medicare	State(s): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Idaho <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Montana <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oregon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medicaid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oregon <input type="checkbox"/> Washington

### Enterprise Policy

PacificSource is committed to assessing and applying current regulatory standards, widely-used treatment guidelines, and evidenced-based clinical literature when developing clinical criteria for coverage determination. Each policy contains a list of sources (references) that serves as the summary of evidence used in the development and adoption of the criteria. The evidence was considered to ensure the criteria provide clinical benefits that promote patient safety and/or access to appropriate care. Each clinical policy is reviewed, updated as needed, and readopted, at least annually, to reflect changes in regulation, new evidence, and advancements in healthcare.

Clinical Guidelines are written when necessary to provide guidance to providers and members in order to outline and clarify coverage criteria in accordance with the terms of the Member's policy. This Clinical Guideline only applies to PacificSource Health Plans, PacificSource Community Health Plans, and PacificSource Community Solutions in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. Because of the changing nature of medicine, this list is subject to revision and update without notice. This document is designed for informational purposes only and is not an authorization or contract. Coverage determinations are made on a case-by-case basis and subject to the terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions of the Member's policy. Member policies differ in benefits and to the extent a conflict exists between the Clinical Guideline and the Member's policy, the Member's policy language shall control. Clinical Guidelines do not constitute medical advice nor guarantee coverage.

### Background

Radiofrequency ablation (RFA) destroys cells by applying a heat-generating rapidly alternating radiofrequency current through probes inserted into the tumor. The cells ablated by RFA are not removed but are gradually replaced by fibrosis and scar tissue. If there is local recurrence, it occurs at the edge of this scar tissue and, in some cases, may be retreated. RFA can be performed as an open surgical procedure, laparoscopically, or percutaneously with ultrasound or computed tomography (CT) guidance.

Thyroid nodule refers to an abnormal growth of thyroid cells that forms a lump within the thyroid gland. Most are asymptomatic and benign but should be evaluated for potential cancer. Although surgical treatment is well-established and primary treatment for patients whose symptoms indicate removal is required. Radiofrequency Ablation offers an alternative to surgery in certain conditions or high-risk patients.

### Criteria

#### Commercial

**Prior authorization is required.**

## I. Benign Thyroid Nodule(s)

A. PacificSource considers radiofrequency ablation medically necessary for the treatment of benign thyroid nodules(s) when **ALL** the following criteria is met:

1. Member is 18 years or older
2. Thyroid nodule(s) are greater than 2 cm in diameter
3. Thyroid nodule(s) are cytologically benign per fine needle aspiration biopsy
4. Member is a high-risk surgical candidate, as defined below
  - a. American Society of Anesthesiologists Physical Status classification system (ASA) level 3 or higher
  - b. Increased risk for complications due to severe comorbidity (e.g., unstable angina, uncontrolled diabetes, congestive heart failure, end stage renal disease, respiratory failure, morbid obesity (list is not all inclusive))

## II. Benign Bone Tumor (Osteoid Osteoma)

PacificSource considers radiofrequency ablation medically necessary for the treatment of osteoid osteoma when **ALL** of the MCG A-0718 (AC) is met.

### Medicaid

PacificSource Community Solutions follows the hierarchical process detailed in the "Clinical Criteria Used in UM Decisions" policy when determining coverage for the treatment of benign tumors with radiofrequency ablation (RFA). PCS evaluates services based on the relevant coverage guidelines, limitations, and restrictions specified in the OHP Prioritized List of Health Services and its guidelines, as well as any applicable Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs).

PCS follows the "Unlisted and Unspecified Procedure Codes" policy for requests for unlisted codes.

PacificSource follows the "Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT)" criteria for members under 21 and Young Adults with Special Health Care Needs (YSHCN).

### Medicare

PacificSource Medicare follows CMS guidelines and criteria. In the absence of CMS guidelines and criteria, PacificSource Medicare will follow internal policy for determination of coverage and medical necessity.

### Experimental/Investigational/Unproven

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PacificSource considers radiofrequency ablation for the treatment of benign thyroid nodule(s) experimental, investigational, or unproven for other indications not included above.

### Coding Information

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The following list of codes are for informational purposes only and may not be all-inclusive. Deleted codes and codes which are not effective at the time the service is rendered may not be eligible for reimbursement.

- 20982 Ablation, Bone Tumor(s) (e.g., Osteoid Osteoma) Radiofrequency, Percutaneous, Including Computed Tomographic Guidance
- 60660 Ablation of 1 or more thyroid nodule(s), one lobe or the isthmus, percutaneous, including imaging guidance, radiofrequency
- 60661 Ablation of 1 or more thyroid nodule(s), additional lobe, percutaneous, including imaging guidance, radiofrequency (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
- 0673T Ablation, benign thyroid nodule(s), percutaneous, laser, including imaging guidance
- 60699 Unlisted procedure, endocrine system

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HCPCS® codes, descriptions and materials are copyrighted by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

## Definitions

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**Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)** - The use of a nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer to produce electronic images of specific atoms and molecular structures in solids, especially human cells, tissues, and organs.

**Percutaneous** - A medical procedure in which access to inner organs or other tissue is achieved via puncture of the skin.

## References

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Yu, S., Silverberg, K., Bhagavath, B., Shobeiri, S. A., Propst, A., & Eisenstein, D. (2020). Post-Market Safety of Laparoscopic Ultrasound-Guided Radiofrequency Ablation. JSLS : Journal of the Society of Laparoendoscopic Surgeons, 24(4), e2020.00050.

## Related Policies

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Clinical Criteria Used in UM Decisions

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT)

Unlisted and Unspecified Procedure Codes

## Appendix

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**Policy Number:**

**Effective:** 1/1/2023

**Next review:** 7/1/2027

**Policy type:** Enterprise

**Author(s):**

**Depts:** Health Services

**Applicable regulation(s):** OARs 410-120-1200, 410-141-3820 through 3830, 410-151-0000 through 0003, and Guideline 40 of the OHP Prioritized List of Health Services

**OPs Approval:** 4/2026