

Current Effective Date: 12/29/24

Status: Approved

Reviewed by Medical Policy Subcommittee: 2/2/23, 12/21/23, 12/29/24

Reviewed Dates: 11/21/22, 12/21/23, 12/17/24

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE DISCLAIMER:

SummaCare posts policies relating to coverage and medical necessity issues to assist members and providers in administering member benefits. These policies do not constitute a contract or agreement between SummaCare and any member or provider. The policies are guidelines only and are intended to assist members and providers with coverage issues. SummaCare is not a health care provider, does not provide or assist with health care services or treatment, and does not make guarantees as to the effectiveness of treatment administered by providers. The treatment of members is the sole responsibility of the treating provider, who is not an employee of SummaCare, but is an independent contractor in private practice. The policies posted to this site may be updated and are subject to change without prior notice to members or providers.

Medical policies in conjunction with other nationally recognized standards of care are used to make medical coverage decisions.

Prostate Rectal Spacers Policy (SpaceOAR)

Indication/Usage:

SpaceOAR is a biodegradable polyethylene glycol hydrogel that is injected between the prostate and rectum under ultrasound guidance. Once injected as a gel, the liquid solidifies within seconds into a hydrogel to temporarily position the anterior rectal wall away from the prostate during radiotherapy for prostate cancer and in creating this space it is the intent to reduce the radiation dose delivered to the anterior rectum. The absorbable spacer maintains space for the entire course of prostate radiotherapy treatment and is completely absorbed by the patient's body over time

Medical Indications for Authorization

Commercial and Medicare Members

Hydrogel spacer use during radiotherapy for prostate cancer is considered medically necessary when the following criteria are met:

- Prostate cancer that is considered low or favorable intermediate-risk
- Tumor is confined to prostate
- Gleason score less than or equal to 7
- No prior hormone therapy, surgery or radiation of the prostate
- No active bleeding disorder
- Patient will be treated with a radiation source to the prostate

CPT Code 55874

Limitations

SummaCare considers transperineal periprosthetic placement of biodegradable material experimental and investigational for all other indications.

Coverage Decisions

Coverage decisions made per CMS, Hayes, and industry standard research

Plans Covered By This Policy

Commercial and Medicare

Self-funded Commercial groups refer to plan document for coverage

Sources Reviewed

Absorbable Perirectal Spacer (SpaceOAR System; Boston Scientific) During Radiation Therapy for Prostate Cancer. Hayes from <https://evidence.hayesinc.com/>

Babar M, Katz A, Ciatto M. Dosimetric and clinical outcomes of SpaceOAR in men undergoing external beam radiation therapy for localized prostate cancer: A systematic review. J Med Imaging Radiat Oncol. Apr 14 2021.

Aminsharifi A, Kotamarti S, Silver D, Schulman A. Major complications and adverse events related to the injection of the SpaceOAR® hydrogel system before radiotherapy for prostate cancer: Review of the manufacturer and user facility device experience (MAUDE) database. J Endourol. 2019; 33(10):868-871.

Chao M, Ho H, Chan Y, et al. Prospective analysis of hydrogel spacer for patients with prostate cancer undergoing radiotherapy. BJU Int. 2018 Sep; 122(3):427-433.

Armstrong N, Bahl A, Pinkawa M, et al. SpaceOAR hydrogel spacer for reducing radiation toxicity during radiotherapy for prostate cancer. A systematic review. *Urology*. 2021 May 23

Butler WM, Kurko BS, Scholl WJ, et al. Effect of the timing of hydrogel spacer placement on prostate and rectal dosimetry of low-dose-rate brachytherapy implants. *J Contemp Brachytherapy*. Apr 2021; 13(2): 145-151