

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan/Blue Care Network Radiation Oncology Gold Carding Program

In 2017, BCBSM/BCN developed and implemented a program in collaboration with the Michigan Radiation Oncology Quality Consortium (MROQC) collaborative quality initiative to provide gold carding for radiation oncology procedures for facilities who met specific criteria (using 2016 data). The criteria for the first year (effective: 11/1/2017-2/28/2019) of the gold carding program are as follows:

1. Participation in the MROQC CQI
2. Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT) utilization in $\leq 35\%$ in breast cancer patients*
3. Use of accelerated whole breast irradiation (AWBI) in $\geq 80\%$ of appropriate patients (per the existing ASTRO guideline)

*Combination of inverse planning per physics survey and IMRT delivery based on DICOM file; not 5 or more segments/unique gantry angle.

The Criteria for year 2 (effective: 3/1/2019-2/28/2020) is included below. Sites must meet 4 of the 5 measures to be eligible for the 2nd year of the Gold Card Incentive Program.

1. Participation in the MROQC CQI.
2. Use of accelerated whole breast irradiation (AWBI) in $\geq 90\%$ of appropriate patients (per the existing ASTRO guideline) OR Use of accelerated whole breast irradiation (AWBI) in $\geq 50\%$ of appropriate patients (per the revised ASTRO guidelines).
3. Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT) utilization in $\leq 35\%$ in breast cancer patients.
4. Composite average score of $\geq 90\%$ of current MROQC lung performance index measures:
 - a. **2018 P4P Measure #6 Motion Assessment:** Respiratory motion assessed at the time of simulation for lung patients. *Case Criteria: lung patients with physics information submitted and method used to assess motion indicated.*
 - b. **2018 P4P Measure #7 GTV Defined:** Gross Tumor Volume (GTV) is defined in accordance with MROQC Practice Patterns Lung Target Delineation guidelines (A GTV is defined with the aid of motion assessment or motion management.) *Case Criteria: lung cases with target definitions and without incompatible imaging information; GTV defined.*
 - c. **2018 P4P Measure #8 PTV Defined:** Planning Target Volume (PTV) is defined in accordance with MROQC Practice Patterns Lung Target Delineation guidelines. *Case Criteria: lung cases with target definitions and without incompatible imaging information; separate PTV is defined using ≥ 5 mm expansion with daily imaging or >5 mm expansion.*
5. 80% of patients do not receive >10 fractions for treatment of bone metastasis in accordance with the ASTRO Choosing Wisely guidelines

Frequently Asked Questions

1. If my facility received gold carding status, are all additional facilities in my health system gold carded as well?
 - *No, each facility is gold carded on an individual basis.*
2. Is there any reconsideration process for 2017 gold carding?
 - *In early 2018, any provider can ask for their data to be reviewed for 2017. If they meet the data for 2017 in Feb 2018, they can be gold carded.*
3. Are there any deviations allowed from the three criteria listed above?
 - *If a provider meets criteria #1 and #3, they can ask for their BCBSM/BCN commercial and MA data to be reviewed to determine if they meet the second criteria (IMRT and 3D for breast cancer) based on billing not on reported data to MROQC. The reason for this is some institutions bill for 3D but need to report IMRT to MROQC because of the techniques used.*
4. What documentation do I need in place in order to be gold carded?
 - *Each organization must have a participation agreement-which includes a business associate agreement (BAA) and data use agreement (DUA)-signed with MROQC. The agreement only needs to be signed and reviewed once, and this took place in 2017.*
5. What are the effective dates of the gold carding?
 - *For the initial year (2018): Once participation agreements are signed, the MROQC coordinating center sends along the signed agreement to BCBSM/BCN who begins the administrative requirements to process the gold carded status. Deborah Gase from BCBSM will reach out to each facility to let them know their effective date and provide instructions on how to proceed with the new approvals process. 11/1/17 was the earliest date that gold carding was effective, and this will be through 2/28/2019.*
 - *The gold carding effectiveness dates for year two are as follows: 3/1/2019-2/28/2020. This coincides with the specialist value based reimbursement schedule.*
6. How often will the criteria to be gold carded be reviewed and changed?
 - *On an annual basis, MROQC and BCBSM/BCN will review the criteria and add or change measures as necessary. Any changes will be shared with MROQC participants as soon as criteria are finalized.*
7. Will patients with any BCBSM/BCN insurance coverage be included under the gold carding?
 - *Gold carding will cover BCBSM Medicare Plus Blue, fully insured PPO and all BCN members.*
8. Who is reviewing my rates to determine if I am eligible?
 - *The MROQC coordinating center is using their data registry and definitions to determine eligibility and will provide a list of eligible facilities to BCBSM/BCN.*
9. Is my facility responsible for providing any information to BCBSM/BCN?
 - *Yes. It is the facility's responsibility to provide the correct NPI to be used in gold carding.*
10. What will change for my facility now that we are gold carded compared to the normal preauthorization process?
 - *Being gold carded allows select providers to get an auto approval for radiation therapy authorizations submitted to eviCore*
 - *Providers must continue to request authorization through the eviCore portal*

- *Member demographic information*
- *Diagnosis code(s)*
- *CPT codes (if prompted to enter)*

11. What other standards will my facility need to meet to get radiation services paid for?

- *Authorization/claims matching logic and clinical edits will still apply*
- *CMS and ASTRO guideline edits will still apply.*
 - *If CMS says you should only bill code 12345 once in the entire treatment period, the 2nd time a provider bills it, they should expect a rejection.*