

ACCC **2023**

Oncology  
**Reimbursement**  
MEETINGS

# Navigating Prior Authorizations and Denials in Radiation Oncology



## **Gretchen Van Dyck**

Financial Counselor II  
Green Bay Oncology  
Green Bay, WI

# Authorizing Radiation Therapy



- Who

- Who is involved in the planning of the radiation therapy and why does that matter when it comes to authorization?

- What

- What type of treatment/imaging will the patient be receiving?

- When

- When is the financial navigator notified to get authorization?

- Where

- How and by what means is the financial navigator notified?
  - Where do you get the authorizations?

# Who's Involved?

- Provider
  - What type of treatment? How many fractions?
  - IGRT?
  - Weekly Management
- Dosimetry
  - How many Hand Calcs?
  - Special Dosimetry charge?
- Physics
  - Weekly Physics checks
  - Special Physics Charge?



# What... type of treatment?



St. Vincent Hospital  
Green Bay, WI

Patient Name: <Full Name>

MRN: <Patient Id 1>

DOB: <Date of Birth> <Sex>

## Radiation Oncology Prior Auth Worksheet

Physician:

- Michael Guiou # 1548436363
- Barbie Kaplan-Frenkel # 1992796148
- Alex Coffman # 1871045690
- Anna Laucis # 1972966125

Has this area had PRIOR RADIATION THERAPY TREATMENTS:  Yes or  No

Initial Phase # fractions:  
Boost Phase # fractions:

Total Dose:  
Total Dose:

St. Vincent Hospital  
Green Bay, WI

Patient Name: <Full Name>  
MRN: <Patient Id 1>  
DOB: <Date of Birth> <Sex>



<b><u>Image Guidance</u></b>	
Port film	77417
Stereoscopic x-ray guidance (KV) TC only	77387
Ultrasonic guidance for placement of radiation therapy field	G6001
Stereoscopic x-ray guidance (KV) PC	G6002
Intra-fraction localization and tracking of target or patient motion during delivery of radiation therapy (3D position tracking, gating, 3D surface tracking), each fraction of treatment	G6017
Cone Beam CT technical only	77387
Cone Beam CT PC	77014
<b><u>Treatment Charges</u></b>	
TLD/diode	77331
3D Radiation treatment deliver-simple	77402
3D Radiation treatment delivery intermediate	77407
3D Radiation treatment delivery complex	77412
IMRT treatment simple	77385
IMRT treatment complex	77386
SBRT	77373
SRS treatment	77372
Treatment management-standard	77427
Short course treatment management 1-2 fractions	77431
SRS Treatment management	77432
SBRT Treatment management	77435

# WHEN... is financial notified?



- **Consult Date**

- Do we know the exact plan yet?
- Has the patient decided they for sure want radiation?



- **Simulation Date**

- Imaging has all be completed
- Treatment planning note is done
- Special treatment codes?

# Where/How ... is financial notified?

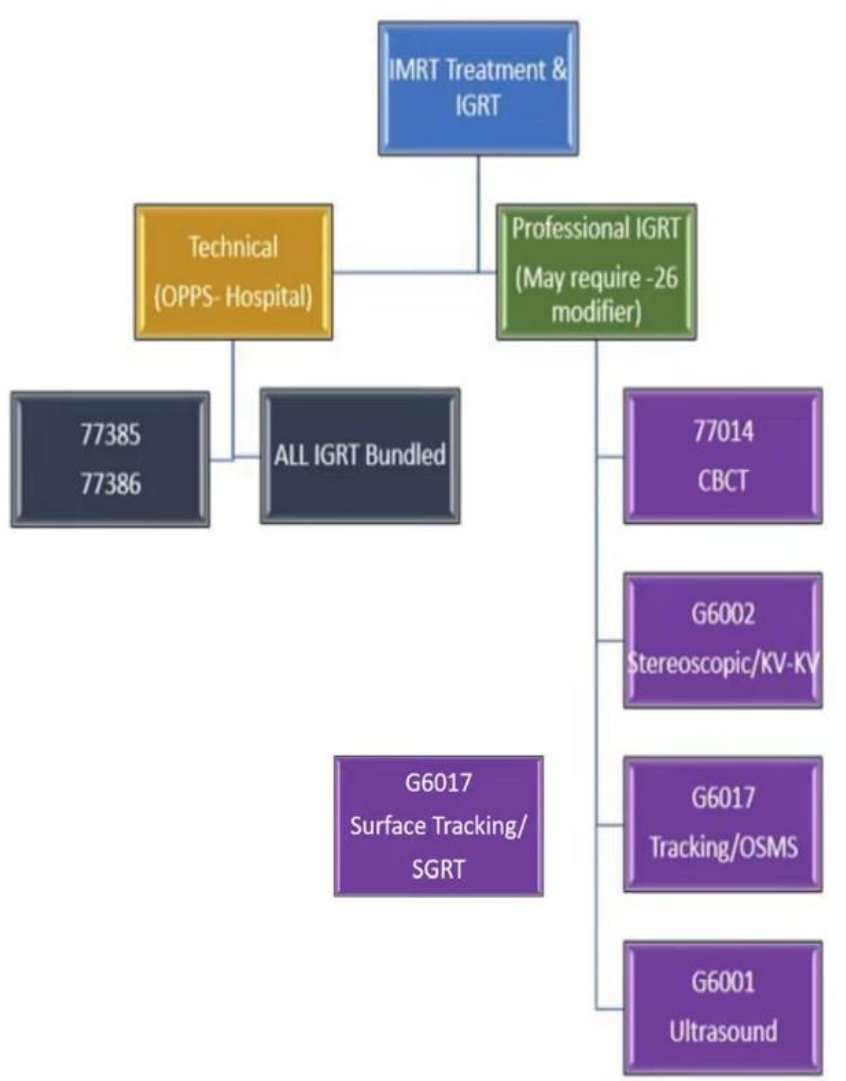
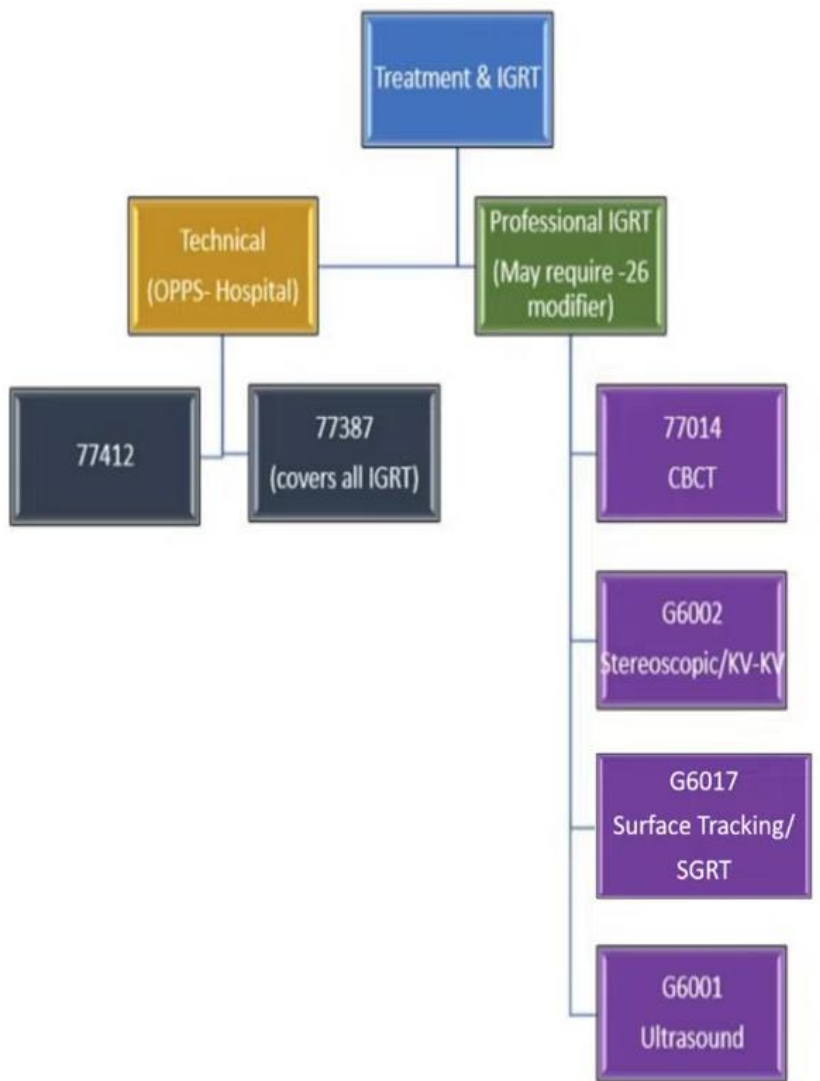
- Referral System (EPIC)
- Task Lists (Aria)
- Work with your EMR
  
- Use your dosimetrist & therapist as resources
  
- Don't be afraid to question your provider on things



# High Errors in Billing / Coding



- IGRT
- 77387, G6002 & 77014
- Special Codes
- 77470 77370 & 77331



# IGRT Billing

# Special Codes & UHC



- 77370 - Special Physics
- 77470 – Special treatment procedure
- 77331 – Special Dosimetry
  
- By rule these codes should be billed day of simulation or day the document is created
- UHC does NOT backdate auth approval to simulation date; *so how do we get around this?*



Questions?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
PARTICIPATION!