



## PET/CT Scheduling and Insurance Information

- **Diagnosis** scans are done **prior** to tissue confirmation of malignancy.
- **Initial Staging** scans are done **after** a tissue diagnosis of malignancy and **before** initial treatment.
- **Restaging** scans are done after completion of treatment for the purpose of detecting residual disease, for detecting suspected recurrence, or to determine the extent of known recurrence
- **Surveillance** scans for patients with a cancer history but with NO signs or symptoms are NOT covered. **EXCEPTION: Highmark BS for ALL approved indications**

**NOPR (PET) Registry:** Medicare eligible patients for ALL OTHER Oncology indications and purposes.

**Medicare replacement plans:** **Aetna Golden Choice, AmeriHealth 65, Freedom Blue (Highmark) Gateway Assured, Geisinger HealthPlan Gold, Keystone Senior blue (Capital Blue Cross), Personal Choice (Independence Blue Cross), Sterling Options**

### Timing for Re-staging

#### Chemotherapy

- Cyclic administration: 1-3 days before next cycle
- Completion of planned regimen: 6-8 weeks following last chemotherapy or 1-2 days before additional therapy

#### Radiation and Chemoradiation Therapy

- 8-12 weeks post therapy

#### Surgery

- Prior to surgery: 1-3 days before procedure
- After surgery: 2-3 weeks preferred, less if biopsy

**Bone Marrow Stimulants:** Wait 1-2 days after administration

### Frequency Limitations

#### AIM

**AmeriHealth 65, AmeriHealth NJ, Keystone Health Plan EAST, Keystone 65, Personal Choice**

Lung SPN	CT scan positive for an indeterminate or possible malignant lesion: 7mm-4cm or within 90 days following negative PET/CT and increase size of SPN
Non Small Cell Lung	<b>Restaging</b> no more frequently than 50 days
Breast	<b>NO frequency limitations</b>
Cervical	<b>Staging ONLY</b>
Colorectal	<b>Restaging</b> no more frequently than 50 days
Esophageal	<b>Restaging</b> no more frequently than 50 days
Head & Neck	<b>Restaging</b> no more frequently than 50 days
Lymphoma	<b>Restaging</b> no more frequently than 50 days
Melanoma	<b>Restaging</b> no more frequently than 50 days
Testicular Cancer	<b>Restaging</b> in patients with post-treatment signs, symptoms or findings suggestive of residual or recurrent disease (e.g., elevated tumor markers such as alpha fetoprotein or human chorionic gonadotropin)
Thyroid	<b>Restaging</b> follicular cell origin; serum thyroglobulin >10ng/ml and negative I-131 whole body scan
Unknown Primary Neoplasm – Presenting with Metastatic Disease Outside of the Cervical Lymph Nodes	<b>When all four of the following criteria are met:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local or regional treatment for a single site of metastatic disease is being considered; and</li> <li>• PET will be used to rule out or detect additional sites of disease that would eliminate the rationale for local or regional treatment; and</li> <li>• Standard work-up for an occult primary tumor is negative; and</li> <li>• Tumor is limited to a single site of disease</li> </ul>

**MEDICARE & NIA**

**AmeriHealth Mercy, Capital Blue Cross (PFP), Gateway, Geisinger, Highmark, Keystone HealthPlan Central, Senior Blue HMO**

<b>Lung SPN</b>	<b>Evaluate</b> a SOLITARY pulmonary nodule 7 mm – 4 cm evident on a recent chest x- ray, CT or MRI. PET is appropriate for diagnosis of indeterminate/possibly malignant lung lesion. Can be ordered if previous imaging less than 6 weeks. <b>Capital BlueCross requires both an X ray AND CT before ordering a PET.</b>
<b>Non Small Cell Lung</b>	<b>Initial Staging:</b> Can order if CT/MRI performed less than 6 weeks earlier and inconclusive for staging.(Does not include PET) <b>Restaging</b> after <u>recently completed course of treatment</u> : ONLY 1 (one) PET allowed post treatment. <b>Restaging</b> with new signs/symptoms: Can order if previous imaging study performed less than 6 weeks earlier.
<b>Breast</b>	<b>Initial Staging</b> (does not include axillary node): Can order if CT/MRI/US performed less than 6 weeks earlier and inconclusive to determine stage. (Does not include PET) <b>Restaging</b> (includes axillary nodes): Can order if previous imaging study performed less than 6 weeks earlier. (Does not include PET) <b>Monitoring response to treatment</b> initiated within the last 8 weeks AND course of treatment completed: ONLY 1 (one) PET allowed post treatment. Can order if previous imaging study was performed less than 6 weeks earlier. <b>Monitoring response to treatment</b> initiated longer than 8 weeks ago, treatment COMPLETED and no PET scans obtained after treatment: ONLY 1(one) PET allowed post treatment
<b>Cervical</b>	<b>Initial Staging:</b> Can order if CT/MRI performed less than 6 weeks earlier and inconclusive for staging. (Does not include PET) <b>Restaging</b> after <u>recently completed course of treatment</u> : ONLY 1 (one) PET allowed post treatment. <b>Restaging</b> with new signs/symptoms: Can order if previous imaging study performed less than 6 weeks earlier.
<b>Colorectal</b>	<b>Initial Staging:</b> Can order if CT/MRI performed less than 6 weeks earlier and inconclusive for staging. (Does not include PET) <b>Restaging</b> after <u>recently completed course of treatment</u> : ONLY 1 (one) PET allowed post treatment. <b>Restaging</b> with new signs/symptoms/rising CEA: Can order if previous imaging study performed less than 6 weeks earlier.
<b>Esophageal</b>	<b>Initial Staging</b> (known tumor/cancer diagnosed by non-PET (endoscopy):Can order if CT/MRI performed less than 6 weeks earlier and inconclusive for staging. (Does not include PET) <b>Monitoring response to treatment</b> initiated within the last 8 weeks AND course of treatment completed: ONLY 1 (one) PET allowed post treatment. Can order if previous imaging study was performed less than 6 weeks earlier. <b>Monitoring response to treatment</b> initiated longer than 8 weeks ago, treatment COMPLETED and no PET scans obtained after treatment: ONLY 1(one) PET allowed post treatment. <b>Physical, lab and/or evidence of recurrence:</b> Can order if previous imaging study performed less than 6 weeks earlier.
<b>Head &amp; Neck</b>	<b>R/O head and/or Neck cancer with evidence of mets/tumor in the body.</b> Head/neck suspected as being the primary: Can order if previous imaging study performed less than 6 weeks earlier. <b>R/O head and/or Neck cancer in a tumor that has been clinically apparent/persistent in the region (to distinguish a benign tumor from malignant):</b> Can order if previous imaging study performed less than 6 weeks earlier. Known(diagnosed) Head and/or Neck <b>Initial Staging:</b> Can order if CT/MRI performed less than 6 weeks earlier and inconclusive for staging. (Does not include PET). <b>Restaging</b> with history of cancer surgery, chemotherapy or radiation and new signs/symptoms: Can order if previous imaging study performed less than 6 weeks earlier. <b>Restaging</b> with history of cancer surgery, chemotherapy or radiation to evaluate for residual tumor <u>after treatment completed</u> : ONLY 1 (one) PET allowed post treatment. Can order if previous imaging study was performed less than 6 weeks earlier. <b>Restaging</b> <u>after completed treatment</u> : ONLY 1 (one) PET allowed post treatment. Can order if previous imaging study performed less than 6 weeks earlier.
<b>Lymphoma</b>	<b>Initial Staging:</b> Can order if CT/MRI performed less than 6 weeks earlier and inconclusive for staging. (Does not include PET). <b>Restaging</b> <u>after completed treatment</u> : ONLY 1 (one) PET allowed post treatment. Can order if previous imaging study performed less than 6 weeks earlier. <b>Restaging</b> with new signs/symptoms: Can order if previous imaging study performed less than 6 weeks earlier.
<b>Melanoma</b>	<b>Initial Staging</b> (not for local nodes): Can order if CT/MR/US performed less than 6 weeks earlier and inconclusive for staging. (Does not include PET). <b>Restaging</b> (not for local nodes) <u>after completed treatment</u> : ONLY 1 (one) PET allowed post treatment. Can order if previous imaging study performed less than 6 weeks earlier. <b>Restaging</b> with new signs/symptoms: Can order if previous imaging study performed less than 6 weeks earlier.
<b>Thyroid</b>	<b>Restaging</b> follicular cell origin and meets <u>ALL</u> of the following: •Evaluate response to surgical or radiation treatment •Post treatment Iodine 131 uptake was inconclusive •No more than 2 PET scans since initiation of therapy Can order if previous imaging study performed less than 6 weeks earlier. <b>Restaging</b> for recurrent/residual cancer and meets <u>ALL</u> of the following: •Serum thyroglobulin >10ng/ml after surgical/radiation treatment •Standard imaging tests have failed to localize mets or recurrent disease Can order if previous imaging study performed less than 6 weeks earlier.