

# Bulletin



Bulletin Number 4498	Date September 30, 2009	Direct inquiries to Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care  (address below)
Distribution  Physicians, Hospitals, Clinics and Laboratories		

## **Subject: Accessing Positron Emission Tomography (PET): Publicly Insured Indications and Studies/Program Funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Ontario, Canada**

This Bulletin is an update to [Bulletin #4477](#) distributed July 7, 2008. Since the last update, Ontario has moved forward to publicly insure specific indications for PET where it has been proven to be clinically effective.

In addition, there have also been changes made to the Ontario Cancer PET Registry with the addition of several new indications and the removal of age restrictions for certain indications.

Positron emission tomography (PET) is a nuclear medicine diagnostic imaging procedure using positron emitting radiopharmaceuticals. Evidence supports a role for PET in the assessment of certain cancers and myocardial viability.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has adopted an evidence-based approach to the introduction of PET imaging in the province and has funded a series of clinical trials to evaluate the clinical utility of FDG-PET. The results of these trials, coupled with evidence from the medical literature, have led the ministry to make PET scanning available as an insured service for specific indications.

The insured indications will be effective October 1, 2009. Please refer to the Schedule of Benefits for Physician Services for specific detailed information.

For general information, please see [OHIP Coverage for Positron Emission Tomography \(PET\) Scanning](#) on the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Internet website.

Processing Sites				
<b>Hamilton</b> 119 King Street West, 10 <sup>th</sup> Floor Box 2280, Station A L8P 4Y7	<b>Kingston</b> 1055 Princess Street, Suite 401 Box 9000 K7L 5A9	<b>London</b> 217 York Street, 5 <sup>th</sup> Floor Box 5700, Station A N6A 4L6	<b>Oshawa</b> Executive Tower, Oshawa Centre 419 King Street West Box 635 L1J 7J2	<b>Thunder Bay</b> 435 James Street South Suite 113 P7E 6T1
<b>Mississauga</b> 201 City Centre Drive Suite 300 L5B 2T4	<b>Ottawa</b> Fuller Building 75 Albert Street, 7 <sup>th</sup> Floor K1P 5Y9	<b>Sudbury</b> 199 Larch Street Suite 801 P3E 5R1	<b>Toronto</b> 47 Sheppard Avenue East Suite 505 M2N 7E7	<b>Contact Information</b> <a href="http://www.health.gov.on.ca">www.health.gov.on.ca</a> <b>INFOLine:</b> 1-800-664-8988

**Effective October 1, 2009, the following evidence-based indications for PET scans are insured services under the Ontario Health Insurance Plan:**

**Cancer**

- **Solitary pulmonary nodule (SPN)** for which a diagnosis could not be established by a needle biopsy due to:
  - unsuccessful attempted needle biopsy;
  - the SPN is inaccessible to needle biopsy; or
  - the existence of a contra-indication to the use of needle biopsy.
- **Thyroid cancer** for which standard imaging studies, including I-131 scan and/or neck ultrasound, are negative or equivocal, and recurrent or persistent disease is suspected on the basis of an elevated and/or rising thyroglobulin level(s).
- **Germ cell tumours** for which recurrent or persistent disease is suspected on the basis of
  - elevated tumour marker(s) (beta human chorionic gonadotrophin (HCG) and/ or alpha fetoprotein) in the presence of negative or equivocal standard imaging studies; or
  - the presence of a residual mass after primary treatment for seminoma when curative surgical resection is being considered.
- **Colorectal cancer** for which standard imaging studies are negative or equivocal and recurrent disease after surgical resection is suspected on the basis of elevated and/or rising carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA) level(s).
- **Lymphoma:**
  - For the evaluation of residual mass(es) following chemotherapy, in a patient with Hodgkin's or non-Hodgkin's lymphoma when further potentially curative therapy (such as radiation or stem cell transplantation) is being considered; or
  - For the assessment of response in early stage of Hodgkin's lymphoma following 2 or 3 cycles of chemotherapy when chemotherapy is being considered as the definitive single modality therapy.
- **Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)**
  - For which curative surgical resection is being considered based on negative standard imaging tests; or;
  - For clinical stage III NSCLC which is being considered for potentially curative combined modality therapy with radical radiotherapy and chemotherapy.
- **Limited disease small cell lung cancer (SCLC)** for evaluation and staging where combined modality therapy with chemotherapy and radiotherapy is being considered.
- **Cardiac PET** using fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG) for myocardial viability assessment in a patient that
  - has severe ischemic left ventricular dysfunction (left ventricular ejection fraction less than 35%) despite maximal medical therapy; and
  - is a suitable candidate for cardiac revascularization procedure or cardiac transplantation.

## **Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Scan - effective October 1, 2009**

<b>Fee Code</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Schedule Section</b>	<b>October 1, 2009</b>
J700	PET Scan - Solitary pulmonary nodule (SPN)	B	\$200.00
J701	PET Scan - Thyroid cancer	B	\$200.00
J702	PET Scan - Germ Cell Tumour	B	\$200.00
J703	PET Scan - Colorectal cancer	B	\$200.00
J704	PET Scan - Lymphoma- for the evaluation of a residual mass(es)	B	\$200.00
J705	PET Scan - Lymphoma - for the assessment of response to treatment	B	\$200.00
J706	PET Scan - Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)	B	\$200.00
J707	Cardiac PET	B	\$200.00
J708	Cardiac PET with quantitative analysis, to J707	B	add 0%
J709	PET Scan - Limited disease small cell lung cancer	B	\$200.00

### **Northern Health Travel Grant Program**

Effective October 1, 2007, patients residing in Northern Ontario that travel to Southern Ontario for a PET scan as a result of enrolment in the Ontario-funded PET evaluation/program are eligible for the Northern Health Travel Grant.

Patients wishing to apply for the Northern Health Travel Grant for a PET scan must be eligible for a Ministry funded PET scan based on the following:

- Be eligible for a insured PET scan and require to travel from Northern Ontario to the one of the PET centre(s); or
- Be enrolled within one of the Ministry-funded FDG-PET evaluation studies or registry and require travel from Northern Ontario to one of the Ministry-funded PET imaging centres to receive a PET scan;

and must have the following in addition to qualify for one of the above conditions:

- Have possession of a valid Ontario Health Card on the date of the scheduled PET scan;
- Complete the Northern Health Travel Grant application form and submit with it, a letter of verification that has been signed by the local PET trial/registry coordinator.

To obtain additional details on the Northern Health Travel Grant program for PET and access a copy of the application form, please visit: <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/pub/ohip/northern.html>

### **Toll Free Ontario PET Information Line**

Should you have any questions relating to the referral of patients to any of the PET evaluation studies or the Ontario PET Access program, please call the toll free Ontario PET Info Line:

**1-877-4PET-411 (1-877-473-8411)**