Radiation Oncology Services

Quick Reference Guide – All Regions

Key Points:

- Medical documentation/records are required for care provided to a Veteran under the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Community Care programs.
- Providers should submit documentation directly to the Veteran’s authorizing VA Medical Center (VAMC).

General Medical Documentation Content Requirements:

VA’s Community Care programs require medical documentation for the initial appointment evaluation and end of episode of care (end of treatment) records. Some specialties may have additional documentation requirements.

VA requires providers to submit all medical documentation directly to the Veteran’s authorizing VAMC.

Records should include Veteran identification on each page of documentation, including at a minimum:

- Veteran’s name
- Veteran’s date of birth
- Last four digits of Veteran’s Social Security number
- Authorization number

For more detailed information on timelines for document submission, please read TriWest’s Quick Reference Guide on Medical Documentation.

Additional Documentation for Radiation Oncology Services:

Details of the radiation therapy:

- Beginning and end dates of treatment
- Treatment modality/energy
- Dose per fraction; number of fractions
- Immobilization required for treatment
- Combined chemotherapy
- Chemotherapy schedule

View a map of VA Community Care Regions
Response to therapy:

- Weekly treatment management progress notes to be included in the final submission/end of treatment documentation. This includes a synopsis of findings observed during weekly treatment management visits.
- Side effects of treatment
- Medical management required during treatment
- Description of any required breaks in therapy
- Height, weight and performance status using either Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) or Karnofsky rating scales
- Specific oncologic diagnosis and stage
- Care recommendations related to side effects of therapy
- Documentation of all anti-cancer drugs administered, including drug name(s), date(s) administered, dose (both regimen dose and total dose) and route (including any ancillary drugs, such as anti-emetics or drugs to suppress other adverse events)
- Documentation of any dose adjustments or delays, including the reason for adjustment or delay
- Documentation of the tumor response to any anti-cancer treatment using standard response assessment scale as well as the results of any exam, image or test that was used to assess response
- Documentation of adverse events
- Documentation of whether the patient was discussed at a tumor board and, if so, the summary recommendation of the tumor board

Please note that abnormal or critical findings should also be reported within 48 hours to the authorizing VAMC. For additional details on Medical Documentation, please refer to our Quick Reference Guide.

The prompt return of medical documentation is crucial for care coordination. To ensure Veterans can receive timely care, VA may call to request status updates and additional or expedited medical documentation.