

News Release

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The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Adds Cryosurgical Ablation of the Prostate to the Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) List of Medicare Covered Procedures

Philadelphia (July 12, 2005) – ONCURA, a global leader in the minimally invasive management of prostate cancer welcomes the addition of cryotherapy to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) list of procedures covered when performed at an ambulatory surgery center (ASC). This decision is in effect from July 1, 2005 and will allow ASC's to collect a facility fee when performing prostate cryotherapy. More information about this decision can be obtained through ONCURA's reimbursement hotline at 877-639-2796 (select option #4), or directly from CMS on the Medicare website at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/suppliers/asc/>.

The addition of a CPT code for prostate cryotherapy was published in the June 24, 2005 federal register along with the issuance of some technical corrections to the Interim Final Rule on the ASC list of Medicare covered procedures. Prostate cryotherapy is covered by CPT code 55873, and is assigned to payment group 9. Code 55873 specifically describes cryosurgical ablation of the prostate, and includes ultrasonic guidance for interstitial cryosurgical probe placement.

"ONCURA has worked diligently with the reimbursement authorities to provide accurate data in support of this decision," said James McGlone, President and CEO of ONCURA. He added, "Cryotherapy with our minimally invasive, 17 gauge needles is now a recognized option for prostate cancer, and one that is well suited to an ASC environment. ONCURA has led the cryotherapy industry in its efforts to add this setting as a reimbursed site; patients can now benefit from increased convenience and access to cryotherapy if they choose to be treated in an ASC."

ONCURA was created through the merger of Amersham plc's (now GE Healthcare) brachytherapy business and Galil Medical Ltd's urology business. Galil is a subsidiary of Elron (ELRN). Headquartered in the United States, ONCURA operates as an independent business, with a major presence in the treatment of prostate cancer. ONCURA's International business is operated from its UK subsidiary.