Interpreting Physician Information Sheet for F-18 Fluoride PET Bone Scan

The purpose of the National Oncologic PET Registry (NOPR) is to prospectively examine how the use of PET scans impacts the management of patients with suspected or known cancer. This information will be used to develop guidelines for the effective use of PET in a variety of clinical situations and for future requests to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to seek coverage for PET scans that are not covered outside of this registry.

Currently, CMS is providing coverage for PET bone scans in patients with known or suspected cancer under a program known as “coverage with evidence development” (CED). As a condition of payment, CMS requires that you complete a brief form that summarizes your interpretation of the PET bone scan. Information is also collected from the physician who requested the PET bone scan about his or her planned management of the patient before and after the PET bone scan. The information is entered into a secure database maintained by the NOPR and forwarded to CMS for payment purposes.

Your participation in the research component is voluntary. You may choose not to participate. If you agree to participate, you may discontinue participation at anytime. If you withdraw from the study, no new data will be collected about you for research purposes. Your decision not to participate or to withdraw from the study will not involve any penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. If you agree to participate, the NOPR investigators will also use the information you provide for research purposes. The patient and the physician who requested the PET bone scan will also be asked to allow their information to be used for the same research purposes. The patient’s data and PET bone scan information in the registry will be used for research only if you, the requesting physician and the patient provide consent. However, you, the requesting physician or the patient may choose not to allow this information to be used for the research component of the NOPR. If you choose not to participate, your ability to interpret future PET bone scans will not be affected.

Whether or not you choose to participate, you will need to complete an Interpreting Physician Scan Assessment Form which is necessary for payment by CMS. If you choose to participate in the research study, the same information, as well as the actual report of the PET scan, will become part of the research data. The Interpreting Physician Scan Assessment Form asks questions related to your assessment of the scan findings and the likelihood of metastatic disease. This form should be completed at the time you interpret the PET bone scan and must be completed within 30 days after completion of the PET study.

You and the patient will not directly benefit from participating in the research component at this time. Your participation will help to identify the most effective applications of PET bone scans in oncology patients. The information will be used by CMS and other health insurance providers to decide whether to pay for PET bone scans for cancer-related indications in the future. We hope that the decision may help patients with cancer in the future.

There are no direct risks or discomfort associated with your participation. However, the completion of the Interpreting Physician Scan Assessment Form is a requirement for CMS reimbursement. Completion of the form should take approximately 5 minutes. Participation in the research component will not require additional time for you and your staff. The patient will not know your answers and of your participation in the research.

The NOPR has implemented the necessary infrastructure to ensure security of all data submitted on the Interpreting Physician Scan Assessment Form and in the actual PET scan report. However, we cannot guarantee total privacy. The information will be stored permanently at the American College of Radiology Imaging Network (ACRIN). NOPR investigators will only have access to this information for research purposes, if you consent. All data collected through the NOPR will be made available to CMS for payment purposes regardless of whether consent is given for the research component. The staff at the PET facility where the scan will be performed will not be able to answer any questions concerning this research study. If you have any questions or require any assistance, you can contact the NOPR project manager toll free at 800-227-5463, ext.4859, or pet_registry@phila.acr.org. If you have any questions or concerns about your rights as a research subject or about harms related to this research, you can contact Maria Oh, the American College of Radiology (ACR) IRB coordinator, at (800) 227-5463, ext. 4160.

If you choose to participate and allow the information collected on the Interpreting Physician Scan Assessment Form to be used for the research component of the NOPR, please check the appropriate check box to indicate your participation in the NOPR research study on the Interpreting Physician Scan Assessment Form.

Review and approval by the American College of Radiology Institutional Review Board