

Indications for proton therapy

Subject:	Proton therapy for model-based indications (head/neck tumours, breast cancer, lung cancer and prostate cancer) and for other indications.
Summary:	<p>Proton therapy is regarded as an insured provision for the indications head/neck tumours, breast cancer, lung cancer and prostate cancer (the so-called model-based indications). This does not mean that proton therapy is the most suitable form of radiation for every patient with such a tumour. A decision tree must be used, per indication, in order to determine whether proton therapy has any advantages over photon techniques for (a) specific (group of) patients. Planning studies are then carried out in order to determine, per patient, whether a clinically relevant advantage can actually be expected.</p> <p>CVZ has issued two reports about insured indications for proton therapy. The first of these relates to the 'standard indications' (intraocular tumours, chordomas/chondrosarcomas and paediatric tumours) and the second is about the model-based indications. The latter report also discusses the assessment of other indications. The fact that CVZ has established that proton therapy belongs in the insured package for a number of indication fields does not automatically mean that this is not the case for other indications. Health insurers can use the method of assessment employed by CVZ in its reports, in close consultation with care-providers, in order to determine whether proton therapy belongs in the insured package for a given indication or a given insured client.</p>
Type of ruling	SpZ = Zvw standpoint
Date:	22 nd August 2011
Issued on:	Minister of VWS
Care form:	Medical specialist care