

**Subject: Positive Emission Topography Scans Page 1 of 1**

**Objective:**

- I. To ensure effective utilization management through the adherence of practice guidelines and consistent criteria review.

**Policy:**

- I. This policy is taken from the Guideline Note number 4, of the Prioritized List for Tuality Health Alliance (THA) Oregon Health Plan (OHP) members.
- II. Positive Emission Topography (PET) Scans are indicated for diagnosis and staging of the following cancers:
  - A. Solitary pulmonary nodules and non-small cell lung cancer
  - B. Lymphoma
  - C. Melanoma
- III. For diagnosis, the PET scan is covered only when it will avoid an invasive diagnostic procedure, or will assist in determining the optimal anatomic location to perform an invasive diagnostic procedure.
- IV. For staging, the PET scan is covered in the following situations:
  - A. The stage of the cancer remains in doubt after standard diagnostic work up OR
  - B. The PET scan replaces one or more conventional imaging studies when they are insufficient for clinical management of the patient AND
  - C. Clinical management of the patient will differ depending on the stage of the cancer identified.
- IV. PET Scans are NOT indicated for routine follow up of cancer treatment.

Formulated: November 2005

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**THA Plan Director**

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**THA Medical Director**