

**MEDCAC**

**April 21, 2010**

**Radiotherapy for the  
Treatment of Localized  
Prostate Cancer**

The following voting and discussion questions identify for the Panel the issues of most interest to CMS regarding this complex topic.

# Voting Questions

For the voting questions, the scale identifying level of confidence - with 1 being the lowest or no confidence and 5 representing a high level of confidence is identified below.

<b>1</b> <i>Low confidence</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <i>Intermediate confidence</i>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <i>High confidence</i>
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For the purpose of questions 1 thru 4, the outcomes of interest are defined as:

- ❖ Mortality – survival and death rate
- ❖ Functional outcomes – erectile dysfunction, urinary incontinence, fecal incontinence
- ❖ Adverse events – rectal fistula, radiation burns, infection.

**1. How confident are you that there is adequate evidence to determine if radiation therapy for the treatment of localized prostate cancer affects each of the following health outcomes?**

- a. Mortality
- b. Functional outcomes
- c. Adverse events

**2. How confident are you that the evidence is adequate to conclude that the use of external beam radiation therapy improves each of the health outcomes listed below as compared to a therapeutic strategy of watchful waiting?**

- a. Mortality
- b. Functional outcomes
- c. Adverse events

**3. How confident are you that the evidence is adequate to conclude that the use of brachytherapy improves each of the health outcomes listed below as compared to a therapeutic strategy of watchful waiting?**

- a. Mortality
- b. Functional outcomes
- c. Adverse events

**4. How confident are you that the evidence is adequate to conclude that the use of each of the modalities identified below improves each of the health outcomes listed, over the identified comparator?**

4.a. Stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT, including CyberKnife therapy) compared to classically fractionated external beam radiation therapy (EBRT, including 3D-conformal radiation therapy, intensity modulated radiation therapy, and particle therapy)

1. Mortality
2. Functional outcomes
3. Adverse events

4.b. SBRT compared to high dose rate brachytherapy (HDR).

1. Mortality
2. Functional outcomes
3. Adverse events

4.c. SBRT compared to low dose rate brachytherapy (LDR).

1. Mortality
2. Functional outcomes
3. Adverse events

**5. How confident are you that these conclusions are generalizable to:**

- a. the Medicare patient population?
- b. community based settings?

# Discussion Questions

**6. What type of additional evidence on the impact of radiotherapy on prostate cancer outcomes is needed to improve decision making in the approach to treating localized prostate cancer?**

**7. How can the medical research and provider community address the evidentiary gaps that may contribute to health disparities that exist in the diagnosis, treatment and outcomes for localized prostate cancer?**