

MEDICAL POLICY STATEMENT
North Carolina Marketplace

Policy Name & Number	Date Effective
Radiofrequency and Microwave Ablation of Tumors-NC MP-MM-1384	01/01/2024
Policy Type	
MEDICAL	



C. Definitions

- **Tumor Ablation** Direct application of energy to eradicate or destroy focal tumors. The method of ablation is dependent on the characteristics of the lesion and risk mitigation.
 - **Microwave Ablation (MWA)** Delivery of high-frequency microwave energy to rapidly agitate water molecules in the target tissue; the energy is converted to heat, which causes tissue necrosis.
 - **Radiofrequency Ablation (RFA)** Delivery of radio waves to generate heat and induce tissue destruction in the targeted area.

D. Policy

- I. Microwave ablation for tumor treatment using an FDA-approved device is considered medically necessary when **ANY** (either A or B) of the following indications are met:
 - A. Member has primary or metastatic hepatic (liver) tumor and **ALL** the following:

The MEDICAL Policy Statement detailed above has received due consideration as defined in the MEDICAL Policy Statement Policy and is approved.



- metastatic disease to the lungs. *J Vasc Interv Radiol.* 2021;32:1242.e1-1242.e10.
doi:10.1016/j.jvir.2021.04.027
4. Glassberg MB, Ghosh S, Clymer JW, et al. Microwave ablation compared with hepatic resection for the treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma and liver metastases: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *World J Surg Oncol.* 2019;17(1):98.
doi:10.1186/s12957-019-1632-6
 5. Han Y, Yan X, Zhi W, et al. Long-term outcome following microwave ablation of lung metastases from colorectal cancer. *Front Oncol.* 2022;12:943715.
doi:10/3389/fonc.2022.943715.
 6. Matsui Y, Tomita K, Uka M, et al. Up-to-date evidence on image-guided thermal ablation for metastatic lung tumors: a review. *Jpn J Radiol.* 2022;40(10):1024-1034.
doi:10/1007/s11603-022-01302-0.
 7. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. *Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology. Hepatobiliary Cancers.* Version: 1.2023. Issued March 10, 2023. Accessed September 14, 2023. www.nccn.org
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