**RPC WEBPAGE NEWSLETTER**

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**New Proton Approval Site Visit Cost-Sharing Structure for NCI-Sponsored Cooperative Group Clinical Trials**

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The RPC and NCI have developed an approval process for the quality assurance of proton beam radiation therapy for institutions wishing to enroll in cooperative group clinical trials using proton therapy. These approval steps include:

1. Completion of the proton facility questionnaire

(http://www.qarc.org/benchmarks/Proton\_Questionnaire.pdf)

b. Annual monitoring of the proton beam calibrations by the RPC

c. Ability to electronically transfer treatment plans

(<http://atc.wustl.edu/resources/index.html>)

d. Successful irradiation of the RPC’s baseline proton phantom(s)

e. Successful completion of an on-site dosimetry review visit, to occur only after the center has been routinely treating patients for a minimum of 6 months and no fewer than 3 anatomical disease sites, and completion of the site visit report by the RPC recommending approval.

The Radiological Physics Center (RPC) programs have been a unique resource to the radiation therapy community, instrumental in assuring the high quality of radiotherapy data for cooperative trials and helping improve the quality of radiotherapy dosimetry for all patients for the past 45 years. Several years ago, the RPC was awarded a grant from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) Federal Share Funds for the purpose of approving and monitoring proton therapy centers that wished to participate in clinical trials. With many more proton therapy centers in the U.S. and abroad opening and showing interest in NCI-funded clinical trials, the RPC approached the NCI, MGH, and the cooperative groups to find a way to maintain the scope and quality of our proton therapy QA program. To that end, a proton therapy center site visit fee has been implemented as part of a cost sharing plan with the MGH Federal Share Funds. MGH funds support slightly more than 50% of the costs and the anticipated fees generated by the proton center site visits will support the other half of the costs.

**The proton therapy site visit fee is $12,000.**

Please note that this fee is per *site visit*. Each proton delivery modality (i.e. passive scatter, uniform scanning, spot scanning) will require approval and as such may require a separate on-site visit from the RPC for approval to use in clinical trials. It is possible that multiple delivery modalities can be reviewed during the same site visit. If your institution coordinates the site visit in this manner to include all delivery modalities, you will only be assessed one site visit fee. It is important that you let our office know of any changes in the delivery modality at your institution.

The RPC will coordinate the completion of the approval processes in conjunction with the other quality assurance offices. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the RPC (713) 745-8989.