

**Title:** Artificial Hearts and related devices, including Ventricular Assist Devices for Bridge-to-Transplant and Destination Therapy (CAG-00453N)

**Decision:** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is making changes to two separate, but medically related National Coverage Determinations (NCDs).

1. Artificial Hearts (NCD 20.9) – CMS is removing the NCD, discontinuing the coverage with evidence development requirement. Local Medicare Administrative Contractors may determine coverage of artificial hearts.
2. Ventricular Assist Devices (NCD 20.9.1) - CMS is expanding coverage for intracorporeal left ventricular assist devices (LVADs) by removing the current therapeutic intent-to-treat criteria, and expanding patient selection criteria for short-term (e.g., bridge-to-recovery and bridge-to-transplant) or long-term (e.g., destination therapy) mechanical circulatory support, when all applicable coverage requirements are met. The facility criteria remain unchanged from the current NCD.

**What this means:** Artificial hearts may be covered for members outside of a clinical trial who meet our coverage indications, subject to any requirements established by the local Medicare Administrative Contractors. HealthPartners has discretion over coverage determinations for artificial hearts.

Implantable LVADs may be covered for short- or long-term circulatory support when all applicable criteria are met. Members are no longer required to be active on the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) heart transplant waitlist as a condition for coverage of short-term therapy. Please refer to the final decision memo for all coverage criteria.

**Effective:** December 1, 2020

HealthPartners is a health plan that contracts with both Medicare and the Minnesota Medical Assistance (Medicaid) program to provide benefits of both programs to enrollees. HealthPartners is also a Cost plan and PPO plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in HealthPartners depends on contract renewal. HealthPartners UnityPoint Health is a PPO plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in HealthPartners UnityPoint Health depends on contract renewal.

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H3416\_90242 IR Approved 06/2017

H2422\_90242 IR Approved 07/2015

H4882\_90242 IR Approved 03/2018

This announcement can be found at: [Artificial Hearts and related devices, including Ventricular Assist Devices for Bridge-to-Transplant and Destination Therapy \(CAG-00453N\)](#)

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