

Clinical Policy: Pediatric Heart Transplant

Reference Number: LA.CP.MP.138

Coding Implications

Date of last Revision: 2/22/22

[Revision Log](#)

See [Important Reminder](#) at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description

Pediatric heart disease may be a progressive disease, affecting cardiac structure and function in infants and children. Heart transplantation is the treatment of choice for pediatric patients with end-stage heart disease. This policy establishes the medical necessity requirements for pediatric heart transplants and re-transplants.

Policy/Criteria

- I. It is the policy of Louisiana Healthcare Connections that heart transplant for pediatric members/enrollees (age < 18) with end-stage heart disease is **medically necessary** when all of the following conditions are met:
 - A. End-stage heart disease due to any of the following indications¹:
 1. *For heart transplantation, one of the following:*
 - a. Stage D heart failure (see table 1) associated with systemic ventricular dysfunction with cardiomyopathies or previously repaired/palliated congenital heart disease (CHD);
 - b. Stage C heart failure associated with any of the following:
 - i. Severe limitation of exercise and activity, evidenced by peak maximum oxygen consumption < 50% predicted for age and sex;
 - ii. Systemic ventricular dysfunction in patients with cardiomyopathies or previously repaired/palliated CHD when heart failure is associated with significant growth failure attributable to the heart disease;
 - iii. Near sudden death, and/or life-threatening arrhythmias untreatable with medications or an implantable defibrillator;
 - iv. Restrictive cardiomyopathy disease associated with reactive pulmonary hypertension;
 - v. Reactive pulmonary hypertension and a potential risk of developing fixed, irreversible elevation of pulmonary vascular resistance that could preclude orthotopic heart transplantation in the future;
 - vi. Certain anatomic and physiological conditions likely to worsen the natural history of previously repaired or palliated CHD that may lead to consideration for heart transplantation without severe systemic ventricular dysfunction, including any of the following:
 - a) Severe aortic or systemic AV valve insufficiency that is not considered amenable to surgical correction;
 - b) Severe arterial oxygen desaturation (cyanosis) that is not considered amenable to surgical correction;
 - c) Persistent protein-losing enteropathy despite optimal medical/surgical therapy;

- c. Certain anatomic and physiological conditions likely to worsen the natural history of CHD in infant patients with a functional single ventricle, which can lead to use of heart transplantation as primary therapy, including any of the following:
 - i. Severe stenosis (stenoses) or atresia in proximal coronary arteries;
 - ii. Moderate to severe stenosis and/or insufficiency of the atrioventricular (AV) and/or systemic semilunar valve(s);
 - iii. Severe ventricular dysfunction;
2. *For heart re-transplantation*, moderate to severe cardiac graft vasculopathy;
- B. Life expectancy in the absence of cardiopulmonary disease ≥ 2 years;
- C. All reversible causes of heart failure have been ruled out such as, but not limited to, anemia, hypertension, renal failure, acidosis, obesity, malnutrition, respiratory disorders and thyroid disorders;
- C.D. _____ Does not have any of the following contraindications:
 1. Glomerular filtration rate < 40 mL/min/1.73m² unless being considered for multi-organ transplant;
 2. HIV infection with detectable viral load;
 3. Severe, irreversible, fixed elevation of pulmonary vascular resistance;
 4. Severe hypoplasia of the central branch pulmonary arteries or pulmonary veins;
 5. Any specific congenital heart lesion, except in circumstances noted in I.A.;
 6. Amyloid light-chain (AL) amyloidosis (exceptions may be made where curative therapy of amyloidosis has been performed or is planned, such as with stem cell transplantation in primary amyloidosis, or with liver transplantation in familial amyloidosis);
 7. Retransplantation when performed during an episode of ongoing, acute allograft rejection, even in the presence of graft vasculopathy;
 8. Retransplantation when performed during the first 6 months after primary transplantation;
 9. Malignancy with high risk of recurrence or death related to cancer;
 10. Acute liver failure, or cirrhosis with portal hypertension or synthetic dysfunction unless being considered for multi-organ transplant;
 11. Acute renal failure with rising creatinine or on dialysis and low likelihood of recovery;
 12. Other severe uncontrolled medical condition expected to limit survival after transplant;
 13. Uncorrected atherosclerotic disease with suspected or confirmed end-organ ischemia or dysfunction;
 14. Chronic infection with highly virulent and/or resistant microbes that are poorly controlled pre-transplant;
 15. Active tuberculosis infection;
 16. Progressive cognitive impairment;
 17. Significant chest wall/spinal deformity expected to cause severe restriction after transplantation;
 18. BMI > 35 or BMI $\geq 120\%$ of the 95th percentile (varies by sex and age), whichever is lower.; see https://www.cdc.gov/growthcharts/clinical_charts.htm for BMI percentile by age, and refer to Appendix A for 120% of the 95th percentile values);

19. Inability to adhere to the regimen necessary to preserve the transplant, even with caregiver support;
20. Absence of an adequate or reliable social support system;
21. Active substance use or dependence including current tobacco use, vaping, marijuana smoking, or IV drug use without convincing evidence of risk reduction behaviors, such as meaningful and/or long-term participation in therapy for substance abuse and/or dependence. Serial blood and urine testing may be used to verify abstinence from substances that are of concern.
- ~~1. Severe, irreversible, fixed elevation of pulmonary vascular resistance;~~
- ~~2. Severe hypoplasia of the central branch pulmonary arteries or pulmonary veins;~~
- ~~3. Any specific congenital heart lesion, except in circumstances noted in I.A.;~~
- ~~4. Amyloid light chain (AL) amyloidosis (exceptions may be made where curative therapy of amyloidosis has been performed or is planned, such as with stem cell transplantation in primary amyloidosis, or with liver transplantation in familial amyloidosis);~~
- ~~5. Retransplantation when performed during an episode of ongoing, acute allograft rejection, even in the presence of graft vasculopathy;~~
- ~~6. Retransplantation when performed during the first 6 months after primary transplantation;~~
- ~~7. Malignancy, except for non-melanoma localized skin cancer that has been treated appropriately, a malignancy that has been completely resected, or a treated malignancy determined to have a small likelihood of recurrence and acceptable future risks;~~
- ~~8. Untreatable significant dysfunction of another major organ system unless combined organ transplantation can be performed;~~
- ~~9. Uncorrected atherosclerotic disease with suspected or confirmed end-organ ischemia or dysfunction;~~
- ~~10. Acute medical instability, including, but not limited to, acute sepsis, myocardial infarction, and liver failure;~~
- ~~11. Uncorrectable bleeding diathesis;~~
- ~~12. Chronic infection with highly virulent and/or resistant microbes that are poorly controlled pre-transplant;~~
- ~~13. Evidence of active *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection;~~
- ~~14. Significant chest wall/spinal deformity expected to cause severe restriction after transplantation;~~
- ~~15. BMI \geq 35 or BMI \geq 120% of the 95th percentile (varies by sex and age), whichever is lower.; see https://www.cdc.gov/growthcharts/clinical_charts.htm for BMI percentile by age, and refer to Appendix A for 120% of the 95th percentile values);~~
- ~~16. Inability to adhere to the regimen necessary to preserve the transplant, even with caregiver support;~~
- ~~17. Absence of an adequate or reliable social support system;~~
- 18-22. Substance abuse or dependence (including tobacco and alcohol) without convincing evidence of risk reduction behaviors, such as meaningful and/or long-term participation in therapy for substance abuse and/or dependence. Serial blood and urine testing may be used to verify abstinence from substances that are of concern.

~~D. All reversible causes of heart failure have been ruled out such as, but not limited to, anemia, hypertension, renal failure, acidosis, obesity, malnutrition, respiratory disorders and thyroid disorders.~~

Appendix A:

Steps to determine 120% of 95th BMI percentile by age:

1. Calculate BMI by age, with percentile, here:
<https://www.cdc.gov/healthyweight/bmi/calculator.html>
2. In the row corresponding to the child’s age, look at the last column of either the male or female chart to determine if the child’s BMI falls at or above 120% of the 95th percentile BMI value.

Male BMI Chart		
Age in years	95 th percentile BMI*	BMI 120% of 95 th percentile
2- < 2.5	19.3-18.7	23.2-22.4
2.5- < 3	18.7-18.2	22.4-21.8
3- < 3.5	18.2-18.0	21.8-21.6
3.5- < 4	18.0-17.8	21.6-21.4
4- < 4.5	17.8	21.4
4.5- < 5	17.8-17.9	21.4-21.5
5- < 5.5	17.9-18.1	21.5-21.7
5.5- < 6	18.1-18.4	21.7-22.1
6- < 6.5	18.4-18.8	22.1-22.6
6.5- < 7	18.8-19.2	22.6-23.0
7- < 7.5	19.2-19.6	23.0-23.5
7.5- < 8	19.6-20.1	23.5-24.1
8- < 8.5	20.1-20.6	24.1-24.7
8.5- < 9	20.6-21.1	24.7-25.3
9- < 9.5	21.1-21.6	25.3-25.9
9.5- < 10	21.6-22.2	25.9-26.6
10- < 10.5	22.2-22.7	26.6-27.2
10.5- < 11	22.7-23.2	27.2-27.8
11- < 11.5	23.2-23.7	27.8-28.4
11.5- < 12	23.7-24.2	28.4-29.0
12- < 12.5	24.2-24.7	29.0-29.6
12.5- < 13	24.7-25.2	29.6-30.2
13- < 13.5	25.2-25.6	30.2-30.7
13.5- < 14	25.6-26.0	30.7-31.2
14- < 14.5	26.0-26.4	31.2-31.7
14.5- < 15	26.4-26.8	31.7-32.2
15- < 15.5	26.8-27.2	32.2-32.6
15.5- < 16	27.2-27.6	32.6-33.1
16- < 16.5	27.6-27.9	33.1-33.5
16.5- < 17	27.9-28.2	33.5-33.8

Female BMI Chart		
Age in years	95 th percentile BMI*	BMI 120% of 95 th percentile
2- < 2.5	19.1-18.6	22.9-22.3
2.5- < 3	18.6-18.3	22.3-22.0
3- < 3.5	18.3-18.1	22.0-21.7
3.5- < 4	18.1-18.0	21.7-21.6
4- < 4.5	18.0-18.1	21.6-21.7
4.5- < 5	18.1-18.2	21.7-21.8
5- < 5.5	18.2-18.5	21.8-22.2
5.5- < 6	18.5-18.8	22.2-22.6
6- < 6.5	18.8-19.2	22.6-23.0
6.5- < 7	19.2-19.6	23.0-23.5
7- < 7.5	19.6-20.1	23.5-24.1
7.5- < 8	20.1-20.7	24.1-24.8
8- < 8.5	20.7-21.2	24.8-25.4
8.5- < 9	21.2-21.8	25.4-26.2
9- < 9.5	21.8-22.4	26.2-26.9
9.5- < 10	22.4-23.0	26.9-27.6
10- < 10.5	23.0-23.6	27.6-28.3
10.5- < 11	23.6-24.1	28.3-28.9
11- < 11.5	24.1-24.7	28.9-29.6
11.5- < 12	24.7-25.2	29.6-30.2
12- < 12.5	25.2-25.8	20.2-31.0
12.5- < 13	25.8-26.3	31.0-31.6
13- < 13.5	26.3-26.8	31.6-32.2
13.5- < 14	26.8-27.3	32.2-32.8
14- < 14.5	27.3-27.8	32.8-33.4
14.5- < 15	27.8-28.2	33.4-33.8
15- < 15.5	28.2-28.5	33.8-34.2
15.5- < 16	28.5-28.9	34.2-34.7
16- < 16.5	28.9-29.3	34.7-35.2
16.5- < 17	29.3-29.6	35.2-35.5

Male BMI Chart		
Age in years	95 th percentile BMI*	BMI 120% of 95 th percentile
17- < 17.5	28.2-28.6	33.8-34.3
17.5-< 18	28.6-29.0	34.3-34.8
18-<18.5	29.0-29.4	34.8-35.3
18.5-<19	29.4-29.7	35.3-35.6
19-19.5	29.7-30.1	35.6-36.1
19.5- <20	30.1-30.6	36.1-36.7

Female BMI Chart		
Age in years	95 th percentile BMI*	BMI 120% of 95 th percentile
17- < 17.5	29.6-29.9	35.5-35.9
17.5-< 18	29.9-30.3	35.9-36.4
18-<18.5	30.3-30.6	36.4-36.7
18.5-<19	30.6-31.0	36.7-37.2
19-19.5	31.0-31.4	37.2-37.7
19.5- <20	31.4-31.8	37.7-38.2

Background

Pediatric heart disease incorporates a wide range of diseases and includes a variety of age ranges. Heart transplantation is recommended for end-stage pediatric heart disease. Cardiomyopathy is the most common indication for heart transplant in children and dilated cardiomyopathy is the most common form of cardiomyopathy in the pediatric population, followed by hypertrophic and restrictive diseases.¹

The American Heart Association has published a scientific statement specifically to address the requirements for heart transplantation and re-transplantations in pediatric heart disease.¹ Canter, *et al*, addresses the indications for heart transplants and defines the staging of heart failure as illustrated in Table 1.

The current survival rates in pediatric recipients 1, 5, and 10 years after transplantation is approximately 90, 80, and 60%, respectively.² The median survival is 19.7 years for infants, 16.8 years for children ages 1-5, 14.5 years for children ages 6-10, and 12.4 years for children ages 11-17 at the time of transplantation.³ Several risk factors contribute to the decreasing survival in older ages groups, including immature immune system in infants, the absence of preformed antibodies in infants, sensitization in the older children due to surgical repair for congenital heart disease, and medication non-compliance in older children.³

Dipchand, *et al*, analyzed the Registry of the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation and reported the proportion of transplant recipients by age accordingly: 24% infants, 25% aged between 1 and 5 years, 16% aged between 6 and 10 years, and 35% aged between 11 and 17 years.⁵

Table 1: Heart Failure Stages in Pediatric Heart Disease

Classification	Characteristics
A	At high risk for developing heart failure
B	Abnormal cardiac structure and/or function; no symptoms of heart failure
C	Abnormal cardiac structure and/or function; past or present symptoms of heart failure
D	Abnormal structure and/or function; continuous infusion of intravenous inotropes or prostaglandin E ₁ to maintain patency of a ductus arteriosus; mechanical ventilatory and/or mechanical circulatory support

Coding Implications

This clinical policy references Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®). CPT® is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association. All CPT codes and descriptions are copyrighted 2020, American Medical Association. All rights reserved. CPT codes and CPT descriptions are from the current manuals and those included herein are not intended to be all-inclusive and are included for informational purposes only. Codes referenced in this clinical policy are for informational purposes only and may not support medical necessity. Inclusion or exclusion of any codes does not guarantee coverage and may not support medical necessity. Providers should reference the most up-to-date sources of professional coding guidance prior to the submission of claims for reimbursement of covered services.

CPT® Codes	Description
33944	Backbench standard preparation of cadaver donor heart allograft prior to transplantation, including dissection of allograft from surrounding soft tissues to prepare aorta, superior vena cava, inferior vena cava, pulmonary artery, and left atrium for implantation
33945	Heart transplant, with or without recipient cardiectomy

HCPCS Codes	Description
N/A	

ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes that Support Coverage Criteria

ICD-10-CM Code	Description
I25.10– I25.9	Chronic ischemic heart disease
I42.0 – I42.9	Cardiomyopathy
I50.1 – I50.9	Heart failure
Q20.0 – Q28.9	Congenital malformations of circulatory system

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Revision Date	Approval Date
Converted corporate to local policy.	12/31/2020	
In I.C., replaced “adequate functional status with ability for rehabilitation” and contraindications regarding past or current nonadherence to medical therapy, and psychological condition associated with the inability to comply with medical therapy with “Inability to adhere to the regimen necessary to preserve the transplant, even with caregiver support.” Changed “review date” in header to “Date of Last Revision” and “Date” in the revision log header to “Revision Date.” Added “and may not support medical necessity” to coding implications. Annual review. Revised I.C.13, from “BMI ≥ 120% of the 95th percentile (varies by sex and age)” to “BMI ≥ 35 or BMI ≥ 120% of	2/22	

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Revision Date	Approval Date
the 95th percentile (varies by sex and age), whichever is lower.” References reviewed and updated. Reviewed by specialist.		
<u>Moved criterion “all reversible causes of heart failure have been ruled out...” to I.C, and moved contraindications to I.D. Edited contraindications: added GFR rate; added “Acute liver failure or cirrhosis...”, added acute renal failure; added HIV infection with detectable viral load; added septic shock; added progressive cognitive impairment; replaced “untreatable significant dysfunction of another major organ system..” with “Other severe uncontrolled medical condition expected to limit survival after transplant”; slightly reworded substance use contraindication; removed “acute medical instability...” and “uncorrectable bleeding diathesis;” replaced “malignancy, except for non-melanoma...” with “Malignancy with high risk of recurrence or death related to cancer.” Added “and may not support medical necessity” to Coding Implications section</u>	5/22	

References

1. Canter CE, Shaddy RE, Bernstein D, et al. Indications for heart transplantation in pediatric heart disease: a scientific statement from the American Heart Association Council on Cardiovascular Disease in the Young; the Councils on Clinical Cardiology, Cardiovascular Nursing, and Cardiovascular Surgery and Anesthesia; and the Quality of Care and Outcomes Research Interdisciplinary Working Group [published correction appears in *Circulation*. 2007 Apr 3;115(13):e385. Friedman, Allen H [corrected to Friedman, Alan H]]. *Circulation*. 2007;115(5):658-676. doi:10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.106.180449
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Important Reminder

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. LHCC makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved.

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CLINICAL POLICY
Pediatric Heart Transplant



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