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SHP Left Atrial Appendage Occlusion

AUTH: SHP Surgical 102 v4 (AC)

MCG Health
Ambulatory Care
26th Edition

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Coverage

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See the appropriate benefit document for specific coverage determination. Member specific benefits take precedence over medical policy.

Application to Products

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- Policy is applicable to all products.

Authorization Requirements

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Medical Director review is necessary for requests related to clinical trials. (A Medical Director can approve clinical trial testing if member has the benefit.)

Pre-certification by the Plan is required.

Description of Item or Service

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Left atrial appendage occlusion is a procedure using excision, isolation via stapling, oversewing, ligation, plication, clip or implanted device to close an opening in the left atrial appendage. When a device is used, it must have Federal Drug Administration (FDA) approval.

Exceptions and Limitations

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There is insufficient scientific evidence to support the medical necessity of left atrial appendage closure for uses other than those listed in the clinical indications for procedure section.

Clinical Indications for Procedure

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- Left atrial appendage occlusion is considered medically necessary with **ALL** of the following :
 - Individual has nonvalvular atrial fibrillation
 - Individual is at increased risk of stroke
 - Individual is not eligible for therapy with warfarin oral anticoagulation due **1 or more** of the following:
 - Refusal of oral anticoagulants
 - Pregnancy (except in women with mechanical heart valves)
 - Bleeding or hemorrhagic tendencies
 - Blood dyscrasias
 - Recent or contemplated surgery of the central nervous system
 - Recent or contemplated surgery of the eye
 - Recent traumatic surgery resulting in large open surfaces
 - Threatened abortion
 - Eclampsia or preeclampsia
 - Unsupervised individuals with potential high levels of non-compliance
 - Spinal puncture or major regional/lumbar block anesthesia
 - Other diagnostic or therapeutic procedures with potential for uncontrollable bleeding
 - Hypersensitivity to warfarin or any component of the product
 - Malignant hypertension
 - Major regional or lumbar block anesthesia

Document History

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- Revised Dates:
 - 2023: February
 - 2022: March
 - 2019: November
 - 2015: October
 - 2014: October
 - 2013: November
- Reviewed Dates:
 - 2021: March
 - 2020: March
 - 2018: April, November
 - 2017: January

- Effective Date: June 2013

Coding Information

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- CPT/HCPCS codes covered if policy criteria is met:
 - CPT 33267 -Exclusion of left atrial appendage, open, any method (eg, excision, isolation via stapling, oversewing, ligation, plication, clip)
 - CPT 33268-Exclusion of left atrial appendage, open, performed at the time of other sternotomy or thoracotomy procedure(s), any method (eg, excision, isolation via stapling, oversewing, ligation, plication, clip) (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
 - CPT 33269 Exclusion of left atrial appendage, thoracoscopic, any method (eg, excision, isolation via stapling, oversewing, ligation, plication, clip)
 - CPT 33340 - Percutaneous transcatheter closure of the left atrial appendage with endocardial implant, including fluoroscopy, transeptal puncture, catheter placement (s), left atrial angiography, left atrial appendage angiography, when performed, and radiological supervision and interpretation
- CPT/HCPCS codes considered not medically necessary per this Policy:
 - None

References

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References used include but are not limited to the following:

Specialty Association Guidelines; Government Regulations; Winifred S. Hayes, Inc; Uptodate; Literature Review; Specialty Advisors; National Coverage Determination (NCD); Local Coverage Determination (LCD).

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2020 Guidelines for Management of Atrial Fibrillation. (2020). Retrieved Dec 28, 2022, from European Society of Cardiology (ESC): https://watermark.silverchair.com/ehaa612.pdf?token=AQECAHi208BE49Oan9kKhW_Ercy7Dm3ZL_9Cf3qfKAc485ysgAAAtIwggLOBgkqkIG9w0BBwagggK_MIIcuwIBADCCArQGCSqGSib3DQEhATAEbglghkgBZQMEAS4wE6fe

(2022). Retrieved Dec 28, 2022, from MCG 26th Edition: <https://careweb.careguidelines.com/ed26/index.html>

(2022). Retrieved Dec 28, 2022, from AIM Specialty Health: <https://guidelines.aimspecialtyhealth.com/cardiac-imaging-11-06-22-for-commercial-medicare-non-anthem-medicaid/?highlight=%22Left+Atrial+Appendage%22>

Atrial fibrillation: Left atrial appendage occlusion. (2022, Dec 2). Retrieved Dec 28, 2022, from UpToDate: https://www.uptodate.com/contents/atrial-fibrillation-left-atrial-appendage-occlusion?search=&source=mostViewed_widget&graphicRef=87967#

Comparative Effectiveness Review Of Percutaneous Left Appendage Closure To Reduce Stroke Risk In Patients With Atrial Fibrillation - Annual Review: Feb 8, 2022. (n.d.). Retrieved Dec 28, 2022, from HAYES 3: <https://evidence.hayesinc.com/report/dir.percutaneous2367>

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Left Atrial Appendage Exclusion with the AtriClip System in Patients with Atrial Fibrillation - Annual Review: Feb 9, 2022. (n.d.). Retrieved Dec 28, 2022, from Hayes 2: <https://evidence.hayesinc.com/report/htb.atriclip4826>

Left atrial appendage occlusion. (2022). Retrieved Dec 28, 2022, from Cleveland Clinic: <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/treatments/17167-left-atrial-appendage--closure>

National Coverage Determination (NCD) Percutaneous Left Atrial Appendage Closure (LAAC) 20.34. (2016, Oct 3). Retrieved Dec 28, 2022, from Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services NCD: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/ncd.aspx?NCDId=367>

Watchman Left Atrial Appendage (LAA) Closure Technology - ARCHIVED Apr 3, 2014. (n.d.). Retrieved Dec 28, 2022, from HAYES: <https://evidence.hayesinc.com/report/pg.118>

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