



STAT Bulletin

September 14, 2017
Volume: 15 Issue: 23

To: All Cardiologists

Contracts affected: All lines of business

Medical Protocol Update: LifeVest® Wearable Cardioverter Defibrillator

Why you're receiving this stat	We want to let you know about a change in our medical protocols, which may affect coverage for the LifeVest® wearable cardioverter defibrillator for all lines of business effective August 1, 2017.
What you need to know	<p>Revised policy statement:</p> <p>Use of wearable cardioverter-defibrillators (WCDs) for the prevention of sudden cardiac death is considered medically necessary as interim treatment for those who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are in the ICD waiting period (less than 40 days) following an acute myocardial infarction, or • are in the ICD waiting period (less than 90 days) following coronary revascularization procedures, such as coronary artery bypass graft surgery or percutaneous coronary intervention, or • are awaiting a heart transplant and are considered at high risk for lethal arrhythmias, or • meet the criteria for an implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (ICD)* and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o have a temporary contraindication to receiving an ICD (i.e., systemic infection) at the current time, and; o have been scheduled for an ICD placement or who had an ICD removed and have been rescheduled for placement of another ICD once the contraindication is treated. <p>Use of WCDs for the prevention of sudden cardiac death is considered investigational for the following indications when they are the sole indication for a wearable cardioverter-defibrillator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients with newly diagnosed nonischemic cardiomyopathy • Women with peripartum cardiomyopathy <p>Use of WCDs is considered investigational for all other indications. The preauthorization requirement remains the same.</p> <p>* Refer to the Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator Protocol.</p>
What you need to do	More information about the medical protocols is available online at bsneny.com/provider > Policies & Guidelines > Medical Protocols.

If you have any questions regarding this stat, please contact Provider Service at 1-800-444-4552 or (518) 220-5601.