

**To all beneficiaries enrolled in a Prepaid Health Plan (PHP): for questions about benefits and services available on or after November 1, 2019, please contact your PHP.**

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## **1.0 Description of the Procedure, Product, or Service**

A heart-lung transplant refers to the transplantation of one or both lungs and heart from a single cadaver donor. A combined heart-lung transplant is intended to prolong survival and improve function in beneficiaries with end stage cardiopulmonary disease. The technique involves a coordinated triple operative procedure consisting of procurement of a donor heart-lung block, surgical removal of the heart and lungs of a single cadaver donor, and implantation of the heart and lungs into the beneficiary.

### **1.1 Definitions**

None Apply.

## **2.0 Eligibility Requirements**

### **2.1.1 General**

*(The term “General” found throughout this policy applies to all Medicaid and NCHC policies)*

- a. An eligible beneficiary shall be enrolled in either:
  1. the NC Medicaid Program (*Medicaid is NC Medicaid program, unless context clearly indicates otherwise*); or
  2. the NC Health Choice (*NCHC is NC Health Choice program, unless context clearly indicates otherwise*) Program on the date of service and shall meet the criteria in **Section 3.0 of this policy**.
- b. Provider(s) shall verify each Medicaid or NCHC beneficiary’s eligibility each time a service is rendered.
- c. The Medicaid beneficiary may have service restrictions due to their eligibility category that would make them ineligible for this service.
- d. Following is only one of the eligibility and other requirements for participation in the NCHC Program under GS 108A-70.21(a): Children must be between the ages of 6 through 18.

### **2.1.2 Specific**

*(The term “Specific” found throughout this policy only applies to this policy)*

- a. **Medicaid**  
None Apply.
- b. **NCHC**  
None Apply.

## 2.2 Special Provisions

### 2.2.1 EPSDT Special Provision: Exception to Policy Limitations for a Medicaid Beneficiary under 21 Years of Age

#### a. 42 U.S.C. § 1396d(r) [1905(r) of the Social Security Act]

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) is a federal Medicaid requirement that requires the state Medicaid agency to cover services, products, or procedures for Medicaid beneficiary under 21 years of age **if** the service is **medically necessary health care** to correct or ameliorate a defect, physical or mental illness, or a condition [health problem] identified through a screening examination (includes any evaluation by a physician or other licensed practitioner).

This means EPSDT covers most of the medical or remedial care a child needs to improve or maintain his or her health in the best condition possible, compensate for a health problem, prevent it from worsening, or prevent the development of additional health problems.

Medically necessary services will be provided in the most economic mode, as long as the treatment made available is similarly efficacious to the service requested by the beneficiary's physician, therapist, or other licensed practitioner; the determination process does not delay the delivery of the needed service; and the determination does not limit the beneficiary's right to a free choice of providers.

EPSDT does not require the state Medicaid agency to provide any service, product or procedure:

1. that is unsafe, ineffective, or experimental or investigational.
2. that is not medical in nature or not generally recognized as an accepted method of medical practice or treatment.

Service limitations on scope, amount, duration, frequency, location of service, and other specific criteria described in clinical coverage policies may be exceeded or may not apply as long as the provider's documentation shows that the requested service is medically necessary "to correct or ameliorate a defect, physical or mental illness, or a condition" [health problem]; that is, provider documentation shows how the service, product, or procedure meets all EPSDT criteria, including to correct or improve or maintain the beneficiary's health in the best condition possible, compensate for a health problem, prevent it from worsening, or prevent the development of additional health problems.

#### b. EPSDT and Prior Approval Requirements

1. If the service, product, or procedure requires prior approval, the fact that the beneficiary is under 21 years of age does **NOT** eliminate the requirement for prior approval.
2. **IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** about EPSDT and prior approval is found in the *NCTracks Provider Claims and Billing*

*Assistance Guide*, and on the EPSDT provider page. The Web addresses are specified below.

*NCTracks Provider Claims and Billing Assistance Guide:*  
<https://www.nctracks.nc.gov/content/public/providers/provider-manuals.html>

EPSDT provider page: <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/>

### **2.2.2 EPSDT does not apply to NCHC beneficiaries**

### **2.2.3 Health Choice Special Provision for a Health Choice Beneficiary age 6 through 18 years of age**

NC Medicaid shall deny the claim for coverage for an NCHC beneficiary who does not meet the criteria within **Section 3.0** of this policy. Only services included under the NCHC State Plan and the NC Medicaid clinical coverage policies, service definitions, or billing codes are covered for an NCHC beneficiary.

## **3.0 When the Procedure, Product, or Service Is Covered**

*Note: Refer to Subsection 2.2.1 regarding EPSDT Exception to Policy Limitations for Medicaid Beneficiaries under 21 Years of Age.*

### **3.1 General Criteria Covered**

Medicaid and NCHC shall cover the procedure, product, or service related to this policy when medically necessary, and:

- a. the procedure, product, or service is individualized, specific, and consistent with symptoms or confirmed diagnosis of the illness or injury under treatment, and not in excess of the beneficiary's needs;
- b. the procedure, product, or service can be safely furnished, and no equally effective and more conservative or less costly treatment is available statewide; and
- c. the procedure, product, or service is furnished in a manner not primarily intended for the convenience of the beneficiary, the beneficiary's caretaker, or the provider.

### **3.2 Specific Criteria Covered**

#### **3.2.1 Specific criteria covered by both Medicaid and NCHC**

Medicaid and NCHC shall cover human heart-lung transplantation when considered medically necessary for carefully selected beneficiaries with end-stage cardiac and pulmonary disease including one of the following diagnoses:

- a. Irreversible primary pulmonary hypertension with heart failure;
- b. Non-specific severe pulmonary fibrosis;
- c. Eisenmenger complex with irreversible pulmonary hypertension and heart failure;
- d. Cystic fibrosis with severe heart failure;
- e. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease with heart failure;
- f. Emphysema with severe heart failure; or
- g. Pulmonary fibrosis with uncontrollable pulmonary hypertension or heart failure.

### **3.2.2 Medicaid Additional Criteria Covered**

None Apply.

### **3.2.3 NCHC Additional Criteria Covered**

None Apply.

## **4.0 When the Procedure, Product, or Service Is Not Covered**

*Note: Refer to Subsection 2.2.1 regarding EPSDT Exception to Policy Limitations for Medicaid Beneficiaries under 21 Years of Age.*

### **4.1 General Criteria Not Covered**

Medicaid and NCHC shall not cover the procedure, product, or service related to this policy when:

- a. the beneficiary does not meet the eligibility requirements listed in **Section 2.0**;
- b. the beneficiary does not meet the criteria listed in **Section 3.0**;
- c. the procedure, product, or service duplicates another provider's procedure, product, or service; or
- d. the procedure, product, or service is experimental, investigational, or part of a clinical trial.

### **4.2 Specific Criteria Not Covered**

#### **4.2.1 Specific Criteria Not Covered by both Medicaid and NCHC**

Medicaid and NCHC shall not cover heart-lung transplants for beneficiaries with any of the following contraindications:

- a. Emotional problems or recent substance use that will likely impair compliance with post transplant protocols;
- b. History of non-compliance with medical management;
- c. Lack of social support that will likely impair compliance with post transplant protocols;
- d. Active, potentially life-threatening, malignancy (except when transplant is done for a cure);
- e. Other major organ system disease or infection including major vascular disease;
- f. Morbid obesity indicated by a body mass index (BMI) greater than 40, or a BMI greater than 35 with comorbid conditions;
- g. Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) positivity;
- h. Absence of documentation of nonsmoking status.
- i. Organs sold rather than donated to a beneficiary; or
- j. Artificial organs or human organ transplant service for which the cost is covered or funded by governmental, foundation, or charitable grants.

#### **4.2.2 Psychosocial History**

Medicaid and NCHC shall not cover heart-lung transplantation when the beneficiary's psychosocial history limits the beneficiary's ability to comply with pre- and post-transplant medical care.

#### **4.2.3 Medical Compliance**

Medicaid and NCHC shall not cover heart-lung transplantation when there is a current beneficiary or caretaker non-compliance that would make compliance with a disciplined medical regime improbable.

#### **4.2.4 Substance Use**

Medicaid and NCHC shall not cover heart-lung transplantation

- a. when the beneficiary has an active substance use; or
- b. for beneficiaries with a recent history of substance use, where there is no documentation of:
  1. a completed substance abuse or therapy program; plus
  2. six months of negative sequential random drug screens.

#### **4.2.5 Medicaid Additional Criteria Not Covered**

None Apply.

#### **4.2.6 NCHC Additional Criteria Not Covered**

- a. NCGS § 108A-70.21(b) “Except as otherwise provided for eligibility, fees, deductibles, copayments, and other cost sharing charges, health benefits coverage provided to children eligible under the Program shall be equivalent to coverage provided for dependents under North Carolina Medicaid Program except for the following:
  1. No services for long-term care.
  2. No nonemergency medical transportation.
  3. No EPSDT.
  4. Dental services shall be provided on a restricted basis in accordance with criteria adopted by the Department to implement this subsection.”

### **5.0 Requirements for and Limitations on Coverage**

*Note: Refer to Subsection 2.2.1 regarding EPSDT Exception to Policy Limitations for Medicaid Beneficiaries under 21 Years of Age.*

#### **5.1 Prior Approval**

Medicaid and NCHC shall require prior approval for Heart-Lung Transplantation. The provider shall obtain prior approval before rendering Heart Lung Transplantation.

Only those Medicaid and NCHC beneficiaries accepted for transplantation by a transplantation center and eligible for transplant listing shall be considered for prior approval. Guidelines must be followed for transplant network or consortiums, if available.

#### **5.2 Prior Approval Requirements**

##### **5.2.1 General**

The provider(s) shall submit to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Utilization Review Contractor the following:

- a. the prior approval request; and

- b. all health records and any other records that support the beneficiary has met the specific criteria in **Subsection 3.2** of this policy.

### 5.2.2 Specific Transplant Prior Approval Requirements

The provider(s) shall submit the following to the NC Medicaid transplant nurse consultant:

- a. Letter of medical necessity **signed by the attending transplant physician**, requesting transplant, summarizing the clinical history, social history and the transplant evaluation;
- b. All health care records and any other records that support the beneficiary has met the specific criteria in **Subsection 3.2** of this policy including:
  - 1. Lab results (less than three months old) to include Complete Blood Count (CBC), complete electrolytes, liver enzymes, Prothrombin Time (PT), International Normalized Ratio (INR), glucose and A1C (Glycated Hemoglobin if Type I or Type II diabetic), and blood type;
  - 2. Baseline drug, alcohol, and nicotine/cotinine screenings on all adult transplant candidates;
  - 3. Serologies to include Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Hepatitis, Rapid Plasma Reagin (RPR), Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV), Cytomegalovirus (CMV), Varicella, Rubella, Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV) I/II, and toxoplasmosis. (*Positive* serology results may be reported that are greater than three months old);
  - 4. Diagnostic studies (less than six months old) required in a complete packet include:
    - A. Cardiac: Echocardiogram, Electrocardiogram (ECG), and/or cardiac catheterization as appropriate for beneficiary's clinical status;
    - B. Pulmonary: Pulmonary Function Test if beneficiary has cardiac or pulmonary issues, or a history of smoking; and
    - C. Chest x-ray for all transplant candidates;
  - 5. Other diagnostic tests may be requested as appropriate;
  - 6. Beneficiary's height and weight
  - 7. Results of all diagnostic and procedure results (not more than six months old)
- c. Complete psychological and social evaluation to include:
  - 1. beneficiary's medical compliance;
  - 2. beneficiary's support network;
  - 3. post-transplant care plan, with identification of primary and secondary care providers; and
  - 4. history of mental health issues/substance use/legal issues
- d. Beneficiaries with a psychiatric history are required to have an evaluation by a psychiatrist with expertise in evaluating the specific psychiatric issues that relate to transplant candidates.

### 5.3 Additional Limitations or Requirements

Beneficiaries with a history of alcohol (ETOH)/substance use shall fulfill the following criteria:

- a. Actively using ETOH/substance within the past year



1. These beneficiaries shall have six months of counseling (at least twice per month) provided by a substance abuse provider.
2. Shall have monthly toxicology/ETOH screens, continuing these screens monthly until listed; and
3. Shall have toxicology/ETOH screens as needed (PRN).
- b. Clean/sober up to 2 years
  1. These beneficiaries shall have a counseling consult and the counselor will decide if the beneficiary requires continued recidivism counseling. Medicaid will accept the counselor's recommendations;
  2. These beneficiaries shall have ONE toxicology/ETOH screen during their evaluation; and
  3. Shall have toxicology/ETOH screens PRN.
- c. Clean/sober for greater than 2 years
  1. No counseling is necessary;
  2. Beneficiary shall have one toxicology/ETOH screen during evaluation; and
  3. Beneficiary shall have toxicology/ETOH screens PRN

## 6.0 Providers Eligible to Bill for the Procedure, Product, or Service

To be eligible to bill for the procedure, product, or service related to this policy, the provider(s) shall:

- c. meet Medicaid or NCHC qualifications for participation;
- d. have a current and signed Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Provider Administrative Participation Agreement; and
- e. bill only for procedures, products, and services that are within the scope of their clinical practice, as defined by the appropriate licensing entity.

### 6.1 Provider Qualifications and Occupational Licensing Entity Regulations

None Apply.

### 6.2 Provider Certifications

None Apply.

## 7.0 Additional Requirements

*Note: Refer to Subsection 2.2.1 regarding EPSDT Exception to Policy Limitations for Medicaid Beneficiaries under 21 Years of Age.*

### 7.1 Compliance

Provider(s) shall comply with the following in effect at the time the service is rendered:

- a. All applicable agreements, federal, state and local laws and regulations including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and record retention requirements; and
- b. All NC Medicaid's clinical (medical) coverage policies, guidelines, policies, provider manuals, implementation updates, and bulletins published by the Centers for

Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), DHHS, DHHS division(s) or fiscal contractor(s).

- c. FDA and Organ Procurement and Transplant Network (OPTN) - approved procedures, products, and devices for implantation must be utilized for heart-lung transplantation.
- d. A statement signed by the surgeon certifying all FDA requirements for the implants, products, and devices must be retained in the beneficiary's medical record and made available for review upon request.

## 8.0 Policy Implementation/Revision Information

**Original Effective Date:** January 1, 1985

**Revision Information:**

Date	Section Revised	Change
07/01/2005	Entire Policy	Policy was updated to include coverage criteria effective with approved date of State Plan amendment 4/1/05.
09/01/2005	Section 2.2	The special provision related to EPSDT was revised.
12/01/2005	Section 2.2	The web address for DMA's EDPST policy instructions was added to this section.
12/01/2006	Sections 2.2	The special provision related to EPSDT was revised.
12/01/2006	Sections 3.0 and 4.0	A note regarding EPSDT was added to these sections.
05/01/2007	Sections 2 through 4	EPSDT information was revised to clarify exceptions to policy limitations for beneficiaries under 21 years of age.
05/01/2007	Attachment A	Added the UB-04 as an accepted claims form.
07/01/2010	Throughout	Session Law 2009-451, Section 10.31(a) Transition of NC Health Choice Program administrative oversight from the State Health Plan to the Division of Medical Assistance (DMA) in the NC Department of Health and Human Services.
12/01/2011	Entire Policy	Policy was updated to include coverage criteria and requirements to meet current community standards of practice.
12/01/2011	Throughout	To be equivalent where applicable to NC DMA's Clinical Coverage Policy # 11B-6 under Session Law 2011-145, § 10.41.(b)
03/12/2012	Throughout	Removed the UB-04 claim form from A.
03/12/2012	Throughout	Technical changes to merge Medicaid and NCHC current coverage into one policy.
08/01/2012	Subsection 5.3	Prior authorization requirements for recipients with ETOH/substance abuse issues was added.
08/01/2012	Throughout	Replaced "recipient" with "beneficiary."
10/01/2015	All Sections and Attachments	Updated policy template language and added ICD-10 codes to comply with federally mandated 10/1/2015 implementation where applicable.
03/15/2019	Table of Contents	Added, "To all beneficiaries enrolled in a Prepaid Health Plan (PHP): for questions about benefits and services available on or after November 1, 2019, please contact your PHP."
03/15/2019	All Sections and Attachments	Updated policy template language.

## Attachment A: Claims-Related Information

Provider(s) shall comply with the, *NCTracks Provider Claims and Billing Assistance Guide*, Medicaid bulletins, fee schedules, NC Medicaid's clinical coverage policies and any other relevant documents for specific coverage and reimbursement for Medicaid and NCHC:

### A. Claim Type

Professional (CMS-1500/837P transaction)

### B. International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revisions, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM) and Procedural Coding System (PCS)

Provider(s) shall report the ICD-10-CM and Procedural Coding System (PCS) to the highest level of specificity that supports medical necessity. Provider(s) shall use the current ICD-10 edition and any subsequent editions in effect at the time of service. Provider(s) shall refer to the applicable edition for code description, as it is no longer documented in the policy.

ICD-10 Code(s)
02YA0Z0
02YA0Z1
0BYM0Z0
0BYM0Z1

### C. Code(s)

Provider(s) shall select the most specific billing code that accurately and completely describes the procedure, product or service provided. Provider(s) shall use the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT), Health Care Procedure Coding System (HCPCS), and UB-04 Data Specifications Manual (for a complete listing of valid revenue codes) and any subsequent editions in effect at the time of service. Provider(s) shall refer to the applicable edition for the code description as it is no longer documented in the policy.

CPT Code(s)
33930
33935

#### Unlisted Procedure or Service

**CPT:** The provider(s) shall refer to and comply with the Instructions for Use of the CPT Codebook, Unlisted Procedure or Service, and Special Report as documented in the current CPT in effect at the time of service.

**HCPCS:** The provider(s) shall refer to and comply with the Instructions for Use of HCPCS National Level II codes, Unlisted Procedure or Service and Special Report as documented in the current HCPCS edition in effect at the time of service.

**D. Modifiers**

Provider(s) shall follow applicable modifier guidelines.

**E. Billing Units**

Provider(s) shall report the appropriate code(s) used which determines the billing unit(s).

**F. Place of Service**

Acute inpatient hospital

**G. Co-payments**

For Medicaid refer to Medicaid State Plan:

<https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/get-involved/nc-health-choice-state-plan>

For NCHC refer to NCHC State Plan:

<https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/get-involved/nc-health-choice-state-plan>

**H. Reimbursement**

Provider(s) shall bill their usual and customary charges.

For a schedule of rates, refer to: <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/>

**I. Billing for Donor Expenses**

Donor transplant-related medical expenses for donors are billed on the Medicaid or NCHC beneficiary's transplant claim using the beneficiary's Medicaid or NCHC identification number.

Medicaid or NCHC reimburses only for the actual donor's transplant-related medical expenses. Medicaid or NCHC does not reimburse for unsuccessful donor searches.

Cadaveric/Deceased Organ Donations:

Donor transplant-related medical expenses (procuring, harvesting, and associated surgical and laboratory costs) for cadaveric/deceased organ donations are covered for a heart-lung transplant if the transplant beneficiary has received prior approval for a cadaveric/deceased organ transplant procedure.