



Department of
HUMAN SERVICES

Wearable Automatic External Defibrillator

Iowa Medicaid Program:	Prior Authorization	Effective Date:	9/01/2020
Revision Number:	1	Last Rev Date:	7/17/2020
Reviewed By:	CAC	Next Rev Date:	7/16/2021
Approved By:	Medicaid Medical Director	Approved Date:	7/1/2020

Descriptive Narrative

Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is the most common cause of death in patients with coronary artery disease. When a person's heart rhythm goes into an uncoordinated electrical activity called ventricular fibrillation, the heart twitches and cannot pump blood efficiently. This condition often accompanies severe heart attacks when the patient's heart appears to have stopped beating.

Defibrillators work by giving the heart a controlled electric shock, hopefully jolting it back into a regular rhythm. The implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD) has proven effective in reducing mortality for survivors of SCA and for patients with documented malignant ventricular arrhythmias. More recently, the use of ICDs has been potentially broadened by studies reporting a reduction in mortality for patients at risk for ventricular arrhythmias, such as patients with prior myocardial infarction (MI) and reduced ejection fraction.

ICDs consist of implantable leads in the heart that connect to a pulse generator implanted beneath the skin of the chest or abdomen. ICD placement is a minor surgical procedure, with the ICD device placed under the skin on the chest wall and the cardiac leads placed percutaneously. Potential adverse effects of ICD placement are bleeding, infection, pneumothorax, and delivery of unnecessary counter shocks.

The wearable cardioverter-defibrillator is an external device that is intended to perform the same tasks as an ICD, without requiring invasive procedures. It consists of a vest that is worn continuously underneath the patient's clothing. Part of this vest is the 'electrode belt' that contains the cardiac monitoring electrodes, and the therapy electrodes that deliver a counter shock. The vest is connected to a monitor with a battery pack and alarm module that is worn on the patient's belt. The monitor contains the electronics that interpret the cardiac rhythm and determines when a counter shock is necessary. The alarm module alerts the patient to certain conditions by lights or voice messages, during which time a conscious patient can abort or delay the shock.

Criteria

Prior authorization is required.

The wearable automatic external defibrillator device is considered medically necessary when **BOTH** of the following are met:

1. An individual is at high-risk of SCA and meets criteria for placement of a defibrillator; **AND**
2. Has **ONE** of the following contraindications to an ICD:
 - a. Is on a waiting list and meets medical necessity criteria for heart transplantation; **OR**
 - b. Had previously undergone placement of an ICD which had to be removed (explanted) due to infection (such as device pocket, lead, or endocarditis) and is waiting until a new device can be safely placed; **OR**
 - c. Have an infectious process or other temporary condition (such as, but not limited to recovery from surgery or lack of vascular access) that prevents immediate placement of an ICD.

The wearable automatic external defibrillator device is not medically necessary for use in individuals with a history of an acute MI within the last 40 days. Evidence indicates that use of a vest did not significantly reduce mortality in early post-MI period.

Coding

93292 Interrogation device evaluation (in person) with analysis, review and report by a physician or other qualified health care professional, includes connection, recording and disconnection per patient encounter; WCD.

93745 Initial set-up and programming by a physician or other qualified health care professional of WCD includes initial programming of system, establishing baseline electronic electrocardiogram, transmission of data to data repository, patient instruction in wearing system and patient reporting of problems or events.

K0606 Automatic external defibrillator, with integrated electrocardiogram analysis, garment type.

References

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Criteria Change History

Change Date	Changed By	Description of Change	Version
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Signature

Change Date	Changed By	Description of Change	Version
7/17/2020	CAC	Criteria implementation.	1

Signature

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