



MEDICAL POLICY

MEDICAL POLICY DETAILS	
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Policy Number	7.02.10
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Product Disclaimer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a product excludes coverage for a service, it is not covered, and medical policy criteria do not apply. • If a commercial product (including an Essential Plan product) or a Medicaid product covers a specific service, medical policy criteria apply to the benefit. • If a Medicare product covers a specific service, and there is no national or local Medicare coverage decision for the service, medical policy criteria apply to the benefit.

POLICY STATEMENT

- I. Based upon our criteria and review of the peer-reviewed literature, lung transplantation has been medically proven to be effective and, therefore, is considered **medically appropriate** for carefully selected candidates who have irreversible, progressively disabling end-stage pulmonary disease and who meet **ALL** of the following criteria:
- Adequate cardiac status;
 - Absence of infection, or absence of extrapulmonary infection in patients with cystic fibrosis;
 - No history of malignancy within five years of transplantation excluding nonmelanomatous skin cancers; and
 - Documentation of patient compliance with medical management.

Indications include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Bilateral bronchiectasis;
- Congenital bronchiectasis;
- Alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency;
- Primary pulmonary hypertension;
- Cystic fibrosis;
- Bronchopulmonary dysplasia;
- Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis;
- Interstitial pulmonary fibrosis;
- Sarcoidosis;
- Scleroderma;
- Lymphangiomyomatosis;
- Emphysema;
- Eosinophilic granuloma;
- Bronchiolitis obliterans;
- Recurrent pulmonary embolism;
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease;
- Tuberculous fibrosis of lung;
- Pneumoconiosis and other lung diseases due to external agents; and
- Eisenmenger's syndrome.

Medical Policy: LUNG AND LOBAR LUNG TRANSPLANT

Policy Number: 7.02.10

Page: 2 of 7

II. Recipient Selection Guidelines:

Each recipient considered for transplantation should have an evaluation completed by the transplant center for potential difficulties that would complicate and diminish the success of transplantation. Consideration will be given to the patient's risk of death without transplantation, along with the presence and severity of potential contraindications to transplantation.

- A. The following general medical conditions can have an impact on the long-term outcome of lung transplant recipients. Other medical conditions, when they have not resulted in organ damage, are generally acceptable in candidates for lung transplantation (e.g., systemic hypertension, diabetes mellitus, peptic ulcer disease) and should be optimally treated and well controlled. In the presence of any comorbid medical condition with the potential for end organ damage, a careful search should be made for evidence of organ dysfunction.
1. Current use of corticosteroids is not a contraindication to transplantation. However, all attempts to discontinue these drugs or at least reduce the dose to less than or equal to 20 mg per day of prednisolone or prednisone should be made.
 2. Nutritional issues are important predictors of surgical outcome. Patients with an ideal body weight less than 70% or greater than 130% require either weight gain or weight loss to become eligible for transplant.
 3. Substance abuse issues need to be addressed prior to lung transplantation. Candidates must have been free of substance addiction (e.g., alcohol, tobacco, narcotics) for at least six months. Appropriate preoperative biochemical monitoring is recommended in at-risk patients.
 4. Psychosocial problems that are unable to be resolved and that have a high likelihood of having a negative impact on the patients' outcome (e.g., poorly controlled major psycho-affective disorder, inability to comply with complex medication regimen) are a relative contraindication. A documented history of noncompliance with medical care or treatment plans, even in the absence of a documented psychiatric condition, is a relative contraindication.
 5. Colonization with fungi or atypical mycobacteria is not an absolute contraindication to transplantation. Cases should be considered on an individual basis. Special care should be taken when a unilateral transplant is considered. When possible, preoperative attempts to eradicate colonization with antibiotic therapy are appropriate. Adequately treated M. tuberculosis is not a contraindication to lung transplantation.

B. **Contraindications** to lung transplantation:

1. Absolute contraindications include:

- a. Infection with HIV unless ALL of the following criteria are met:
 - i. CD4 count greater than 200 cells/mm³,
 - ii. HIV-1RNA undetectable,
 - iii. On stable anti-retroviral therapy greater than three months,
 - iv. No other complications from AIDS (e.g., opportunistic infection, including aspergillus, tuberculosis, coccidioidomycosis; resistant fungal infection; Kaposi's sarcoma, or other neoplasm); and
 - v. Meets all other criteria for transplantation.
- b. Presence of malignancy (other than non-melanoma skin cancers), unless malignancy has been completely resected; or unless (upon medical review) it is determined that malignancy has been treated with small likelihood of recurrence and acceptable future risks; and
- c. Progressive neuromuscular disease.

2. Relative contraindications include:

Dysfunction of major organs, other than the lung. Particularly renal dysfunction (e.g., creatinine clearance of 50 mg/ml/min) is a contraindication because of the impact of immunosuppressive drugs on renal function.

Patients with significant untreatable coronary artery disease or left ventricular dysfunction warrant consideration for heart-lung transplant. Other relative contraindications include:

- a. Hepatitis B antigen positivity;
- b. Hepatitis C with biopsy-proven histologic evidence of liver disease;
- c. Symptomatic osteoporosis. The potential risk to acceptable long-term outcomes should be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Both symptomatic and asymptomatic significant disease requires treatment that

Medical Policy: LUNG AND LOBAR LUNG TRANSPLANT

Policy Number: 7.02.10

Page: 3 of 7

should be initiated prior to transplantation. Patients should be fully investigated and followed by appropriate objective measures (e.g., bone densitometry);

- d. Severe musculoskeletal disease affecting the thorax (e.g., kyphoscoliosis); and
- e. Requirement for invasive ventilation. Patients receiving noninvasive ventilatory support who meet all other criteria are eligible for lung transplantation.

III. Living Donor Selection Guidelines:

Each donor considered for transplantation should have an evaluation completed by the transplant center for potential difficulties that would complicate and diminish the success of transplantation.

Any person who gives consent to be a live organ donor should be competent, willing to donate, free from coercion, medically and psychologically suitable, fully informed of the risks and benefits as a donor, and fully informed of the risks, benefits, and alternative treatment available to the recipient. The benefits to both donor and recipient must outweigh the risks associated with the donation and transplantation for the living donor organ.

POLICY GUIDELINES

- I. Prior authorization is contract dependent. Approvals for all transplants, including arrangements with an approved transplant center, may be required.
- II. Pre-transplant evaluation documentation could include the following clinical information. If testing is unable to be performed, the rationale for not performing the testing should be included in the documentation:
 - A. Clinical Evaluation:
 1. Confirmation of diagnosis;
 2. Identification of comorbidities;
 3. Treatment of co-morbidities;
 4. Current assessment of co-morbidities; and
 5. Consult notes (if applicable).
 - B. Psycho-Social Evaluation:
 1. Karnofsky performance score; and
 2. Identification of stressors (family support, noncompliance issues, motivational issues, alcohol or substance abuse).
 - C. Dental Evaluation.
 - D. Lab Tests:
 1. CBC, metabolic profile;
 2. Serologies: CMV,
 3. Hepatitis B and C; and
 4. HIV Testing.
 - E. Cardiac Assessment:
 1. 12 Lead EKG; and
 2. Stress echo or MUGA Scan.
 - F. Pulmonary Assessment:
 1. Chest x-ray;
 2. Pulmonary function tests (PFTs); and
 3. Low dose screening CT for individuals considered high-risk for lung cancer (e.g., 20-30 pack history of smoking).
 - G. Age Appropriate Screening Tests:
 1. Age greater than or equal to 50 years:
 - a. Colonoscopy (within 10 years); or
 - b. Flexible sigmoidoscopy (within five years); or
 - c. Guaiac stool testing (within one year); or
 - d. Rationale of contraindication to testing (if applicable).

Medical Policy: LUNG AND LOBAR LUNG TRANSPLANT

Policy Number: 7.02.10

Page: 4 of 7

2. Women age 21-70 years:
 - a. Pap smear (within three years).
3. Women age greater than or equal to 40 years:
 - a. Mammogram (within two years).

DESCRIPTION

Lung transplantation offers carefully selected patients the only curative treatment for end-stage pulmonary parenchymal and vascular diseases.

A lung transplant, either single or double, involves the surgical removal of a lung from a cadaveric or living donor(s) into a recipient.

In an attempt to ease the shortage of available lungs for transplantation, especially lungs small enough to be suitable for children and adolescents, lobar transplants have been done. In a lobar transplant, a lobe of the donor's lung is excised, sized appropriately for the recipient's thoracic dimensions and is transplanted. Although donors for lobar transplant have primarily been living related donors there have been cases of cadaveric lobe transplants. In cases where a bilateral lobar transplant is required one lobe is obtained from each of two donors.

In 2005, the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) began to use a new lung allocation system for patients 12 years of age and older based on wait list urgency and probability of prolonged survival following transplant. The system assigns a score using a candidate's diagnosis, New York Heart Association Class, use of a ventilator, diabetes treatment if applicable, oxygen required at rest, and pulmonary function and laboratory values. Waiting time is used only to sort candidates who have tie scores. Waiting time is a main factor, however, in allocating lungs for children under 12 years old. Other factors for pediatric candidates are ABO compatibility and distance from donor hospital. Transplant centers may update values at any time to reflect a change in disease severity.

The lung allocation system calculator is found at: www.unos.org/docs/lung_allocation_score.pdf.

RATIONALE

Lung or lobar/lung transplantation represent the only curative approach for many carefully screened patients with end-stage pulmonary disease.

Advances in donor and recipient selection, improved surgical techniques, new immunosuppressive drugs, and better management of infections have improved long term survival.

Solid organ transplantation for candidates that are HIV positive has long been controversial, due to the long-term prognosis for HIV positivity, and the impact of immunosuppression on HIV disease. Although HIV+ transplant recipients may be a research interest of some transplant centers, the minimal data regarding long-term outcome in these patients consist primarily of case reports and abstract presentations of liver and kidney recipients. Nevertheless, some transplant surgeons would argue that HIV positivity is no longer an absolute contraindication to transplant due to the advent of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART), which has markedly changed the natural history of the disease. Furthermore, UNOS states that asymptomatic HIV+ patients should not necessarily be excluded for candidacy for organ transplantation, stating "A potential candidate for organ transplantation whose test for HIV is positive but who is in an asymptomatic state should not necessarily be excluded from candidacy for organ transplantation, but should be advised that he or she may be at increased risk of morbidity and mortality because of immunosuppressive therapy". In 2001, the Clinical Practice Committee of the American Society of Transplantation proposed that the presence of AIDS could be considered a contraindication to kidney transplant unless the specific criteria were present. These criteria are listed in this policy regarding HIV status and lung and lobar transplants.

CODES

- *Eligibility for reimbursement is based upon the benefits set forth in the member's subscriber contract.*
- ***CODES MAY NOT BE COVERED UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES. PLEASE READ THE POLICY AND GUIDELINES STATEMENTS CAREFULLY.***

Medical Policy: LUNG AND LOBAR LUNG TRANSPLANT**Policy Number: 7.02.10****Page: 5 of 7**

- Codes may not be all inclusive as the AMA and CMS code updates may occur more frequently than policy updates.

CPT Codes

Code	Description
32851	Lung transplant, single; without cardiopulmonary bypass
32852	Lung transplant, single;with cardiopulmonary bypass
32853	Lung transplant, double (bilateral, sequential, or en bloc); without cardiopulmonary bypass
32854	Lung transplant, double (bilateral, sequential, or en bloc); with cardiopulmonary bypass
32855	Backbench standard preparation of cadaver donor lung allograft prior to transplantation, including dissection of allograft from surrounding soft tissues to prepare pulmonary venous/atrial cuff, pulmonary artery, and bronchus; unilateral
32856	Backbench standard preparation of cadaver donor lung allograft prior to transplantation, including dissection of allograft from surrounding soft tissues to prepare pulmonary venous/atrial cuff, pulmonary artery, and bronchus; bilateral

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HCPCS Codes

Code	Description
No code(s)	

ICD10 Codes

Code	Description
D38.1	Neoplasm of uncertain behavior of trachea, bronchus and lung
D81.810	Biotinidase deficiency
D84.1	Defects in the complement system
D86.0-D86.9	Sarcoidosis (code range)
E71.41	Primary carnitine deficiency
E84.0-E84.9	Cystic fibrosis (code range)
I26.90	Septic pulmonary embolism without acute cor pulmonale
I26.99	Other pulmonary embolism without acute cor pulmonale
I27.00-I27.9	Other pulmonary heart diseases (code range)
J41.8	Mixed simple and mucopurulent chronic bronchitis
J43.0-J43.9	Emphysema (code range)
J44.9	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, unspecified
J47.9	Bronchiectasis, uncomplicated
J84.10-J84.114	Other interstitial pulmonary diseases with fibrosis (code range)
J84.2	Lymphoid interstitial pneumonia

Medical Policy: LUNG AND LOBAR LUNG TRANSPLANT

Policy Number: 7.02.10

Page: 6 of 7

Code	Description
J84.89	Other specified interstitial pulmonary diseases
J99	Respiratory disorders in diseases classified elsewhere
M32.13	Lung involvement in systemic lupus erythematosus
M33.01-M33.91	Dermatopolymyositis (code range)
M34.0-M34.9	Systemic sclerosis [scleroderma] (code range)
M35.02	Sicca syndrome with lung involvement
P27.0-P27.9	Chronic respiratory disease originating in the perinatal period (code range)
Q21.0	Ventricular septal defect
Q33.4	Congenital bronchiectasis
T80.0xxA	Air embolism following infusion, transfusion and therapeutic injection, initial encounter
T81.718A	Complication of other artery following a procedure, not elsewhere classified, initial encounter
T81.72xA	Complication of vein following a procedure, not elsewhere classified, initial encounter
T82.817A	Embolism of cardiac prosthetic devices, implants and grafts, initial encounter
T82.818A	Embolism of vascular prosthetic devices, implants and grafts, initial encounter

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Medical Policy: LUNG AND LOBAR LUNG TRANSPLANT

Policy Number: 7.02.10

Page: 7 of 7

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*Key Article

KEY WORDS

Lobar Lung Transplant, Lung Transplant

CMS COVERAGE FOR MEDICARE PRODUCT MEMBERS

There is currently no National Coverage Determination (NCD) for Lung Transplants. However a Lung Transplant NCD is to be added to the following website for Medicare Members regarding Solid Organ Transplantation:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/manuals/downloads/ncd103c1_part4.pdf