

## **Change to National Coverage Determination may affect your Medicare coverage**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) sometimes change the coverage rules that apply to an item or service under Medicare. When this happens, CMS issues a National Coverage Determination, or NCD.

NCDs tell us:

- What benefits and services are covered
- What benefits and services are changing
- What Medicare will pay for an item or service

CMS recently issued an update to the NCD that applies to the following service:

### **Ventricular Assist Devices**

Here is a description of the change to the NCD. This affects services given **on or after December 1, 2020**

<b>Services affected</b>	<b>Additional information</b>
<p>The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued an NCD to update Ventricular Assist Devices.</p>	<p>Effective with dates of service on or after December 1, 2020, Medicare covers left ventricular assist devices (LVADs) if they are FDA approved for short-term (e.g., bridge-to-recovery and bridge-to-heart transplant) or long-term (e.g., destination therapy) mechanical circulatory support for heart failure patients who meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have New York Heart Association (NYHA) Class IV heart failure; and</li> <li>• have a left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) <math>\leq</math> 25%;</li> <li>• and are inotrope dependent OR have a Cardiac Index (CI) <math>&lt;</math> 2.2 L/min/m<sup>2</sup>, while not on inotropes and meet one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are on optimal medical management (OMM), based on current heart failure practice guidelines for at least 45 out of the last 60 days and are failing to respond; or</li> <li>• have advanced heart failure for at least 14 days and are dependent on an intra-aortic balloon pump (IABP) or similar temporary mechanical circulatory support for at least 7 days.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**We're here to help you**

Mercy Care Advantage is an HMO SNP with a Medicare contract and a contract with the Arizona Medicaid Program. Enrollment in Mercy Care Advantage depends on contract renewal. This information is not a complete description of benefits. Contact the plan for more information. Limitations, copayments, and restrictions may apply. Benefits and/or copayments/coinsurance may change on January 1 of each year. The formulary, pharmacy network, and/or provider network may change at any time. You will receive notice when necessary. See Evidence of Coverage for a complete description of benefits, exclusions, limitations and conditions of coverage. If you have questions, Mercy Care Advantage Member Services representatives are available to help you 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., 7 days a week. Please call 602-586-1730 or 1-877-436-5288 (TTY 711).