

Clinical Policy: Lung Transplantation

Reference Number: CP.MP.57

Last Review Date: 09/20

[Coding Implications](#)
[Revision Log](#)

See [Important Reminder](#) at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description

Medical necessity criteria for the review of lung transplantation requests.

Policy/Criteria

- I. It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation® that lung transplant for members/enrollees with chronic, end-stage lung disease who have failed maximal medical therapy is **medically necessary** when all of the following criteria are met:
 - A. High (> 50%) risk of death from lung disease within 2 years if lung transplantation is not performed.
 - B. High (> 80%) likelihood of surviving at least 90 days after lung transplantation.
 - C. High (> 80%) likelihood of 5-year post-transplant survival from a general medical perspective provided that there is adequate graft function.
 - D. Does not have ANY of the following absolute contraindications:
 1. Malignancy, except for non-melanoma localized skin cancer that has been treated appropriately, low grade prostate cancer, a malignancy that has been completely resected, or a treated malignancy determined to have a small likelihood of recurrence and acceptable future risks;
 2. Untreatable significant dysfunction of another major organ system unless combined organ transplantation can be performed;
 3. Uncorrected atherosclerotic disease with suspected or confirmed end-organ ischemia or dysfunction and/or coronary artery disease not amenable to revascularization;
 4. Acute medical instability, including, but not limited to, acute sepsis, acute viral respiratory infection, myocardial infarction, and liver failure;
 5. Uncorrectable bleeding diathesis;
 6. Chronic infection with highly virulent and/or resistant microbes that are poorly controlled pre-transplant;
 7. Evidence of active *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection and/or smear-positive non-tuberculous mycobacterial infection;
 8. Significant chest wall/spinal deformity expected to cause severe restriction after transplantation;
 9. Class II or III obesity (body mass index ≥ 35.0 kg/m²);
 10. Current non-adherence to medical therapy or a history of repeated or prolonged episodes of non-adherence to medical therapy that are perceived to increase the risk of non-adherence after transplantation;
 11. Psychiatric or psychological condition associated with the inability to cooperate or comply with medical therapy;
 12. Absence of an adequate or reliable social support system;
 13. Severely limited functional status with poor rehabilitation potential;

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14. Substance abuse or dependence (including tobacco and alcohol) without appropriate risk reduction behaviors, such as meaningful and/or long-term participation in therapy for substance abuse and/or dependence;
 - a. Documentation of abstinence from smoking for 6 months before consideration to be eligible for transplant.

- E. Has one of the following disease states and meets its corresponding criteria (not an all-inclusive list):
 1. *Adult members/enrollees, age ≥ 18 :*
 - a. Interstitial lung disease and any of the following:
 - i. Decline in forced vital capacity (FVC) $\geq 10\%$ during 6 months of follow-up (note: a 5% decline is associated with a poorer prognosis and may warrant listing);
 - ii. Decline in diffusing capacity of the lung for carbon monoxide (DLCO) $\geq 15\%$ during 6 months of follow-up;
 - iii. Desaturation to $< 88\%$ or distance < 250 m on 6-minute-walk test (6MWT) or > 50 m decline in 6MWT distance over a 6-month period;
 - iv. Pulmonary hypertension on right heart catheterization or 2-dimensional echocardiography;
 - v. Hospitalization because of respiratory decline, pneumothorax, or acute exacerbation;
 - b. Cystic fibrosis (CF) or other causes of bronchiectasis, and any of the following:
 - i. Chronic respiratory failure and one of the following:
 - a) With hypoxia alone (partial pressure of oxygen [PaO₂] < 8 kPa or < 60 mm Hg);
 - b) With hypercapnia (partial pressure of carbon dioxide [PaCO₂] > 6.6 kPa or > 50 mmHg);
 - ii. Long-term non-invasive ventilation therapy;
 - iii. Pulmonary hypertension;
 - iv. Frequent hospitalization with a clinical trajectory of worsening quality of life and lung function;
 - v. Rapid lung function decline;
 - vi. World Health Organization (WHO) Functional Class IV.
 - c. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and any of the following:
 - i. BODE index (includes BMI, degree of airflow obstruction, degree of dyspnea, and exercise capacity) ≥ 7 ;
 - ii. FEV1 (forced expiratory volume in 1 second) < 15 to 20% of predicted;
 - iii. Three or more severe exacerbations during the preceding year;
 - iv. At least one severe exacerbation with acute hypercapnic respiratory failure;
 - v. Moderate to severe pulmonary hypertension;
 - d. Pulmonary vascular diseases and any of the following:
 - i. New York Heart Association (NYHA) Functional Class III or IV despite a trial of at least 3 months of combination therapy including prostanoids;
 - ii. Cardiac index of < 2 liters/min/m²;
 - iii. Mean right atrial pressure > 15 mm Hg;
 - iv. 6MWT of < 350 m;

- v. Development of significant hemoptysis, pericardial effusion, or signs of progressive right heart failure (renal insufficiency, increasing bilirubin, brain natriuretic peptide, or recurrent ascites);
 - e. Eisenmenger syndrome with pulmonary hypertension despite therapy aimed at avoiding polycythemia, iron deficiency and dehydration, and the associated profound hypoxemia and impaired quality of life;
 - f. Lymphangioleiomyomatosis and any of the following:
 - i. Severe impairment in lung function and exercise capacity (e.g., VO₂ max <50% predicted);
 - ii. Hypoxemia at rest;
 - g. Primary lung graft failure or bronchiolitis obliterans.
2. *Pediatric members/enrollees, age < 18:*
- a. Cystic fibrosis, and any of the following:
 - i. Progressive lung disease and disability despite optimal medical therapy;
 - ii. FEV₁ < 30%;
 - iii. Increasingly frequent hospitalizations;
 - iv. Hypoxemia, (PaO₂ < 8 kPa or < 60 mm Hg);
 - v. Hypercapnia, (PaCO₂ > 6.6 kPa or > 50 mmHg);
 - b. Idiopathic pulmonary arterial hypertension, and any of the following:
 - i. NYHA or WHO functional class III or IV despite vasodilator therapy;
 - ii. Low exercise tolerance with 6MWT < 350 meters;
 - iii. Uncontrolled syncope;
 - iv. Hemoptysis;
 - v. Right-sided heart failure;
 - vi. Failure to respond to vasodilator therapy;
 - c. Pulmonary vascular disease and failure to respond to medical management;
 - d. Eisenmenger syndrome with pulmonary hypertension despite therapy aimed at avoiding polycythemia, iron deficiency and dehydration, and the associated profound hypoxemia and impaired quality of life;
 - e. Surfactant dysfunction disorders with unrelenting respiratory failure, or progressive interstitial lung disease with respiratory insufficiency, unresponsive to medical interventions;
 - f. Bronchopulmonary dysplasia, and any of the following:
 - i. Extended time requiring ventilator support without clinical improvement;
 - ii. Pulmonary hypertension unresponsive to oxygen therapy;
 - iii. Repeated episodes of respiratory failure without improvement in clinical trajectory over time, despite good medical support;
 - iv. Progressive pulmonary hypertension;
 - g. Diffuse parenchymal lung disease, and any of the following:
 - i. Disease progression despite optimal management;
 - ii. Poor quality of life;
 - h. Primary lung graft failure or bronchiolitis obliterans.

Background

Lung transplantation is an accepted therapy for the management of a range of severe lung disorders. Single, double, and lobar-lung transplants have all been successful for carefully selected patients with end-stage pulmonary disease. The most common disease processes for which lung transplants are performed include COPD, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, cystic fibrosis, pulmonary arterial hypertension, and sarcoidosis.

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COPD is one of the most common lung diseases and is the most common indication for lung transplantation. Chronic bronchitis and emphysema are the two main forms of COPD, both most commonly caused from smoking. Non-smokers with an alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency can also develop emphysema. These conditions are the most common indications for single lung transplants. Cystic fibrosis, emphysema, and alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency are the most common indications for double lung transplant, or sequential replacement of both lungs.

The most common indications for pediatric lung transplants include pulmonary vascular disease, bronchiolitis obliterans, bronchopulmonary dysplasia, graft failure due to viral pneumonitis, and CF.

Coding Implications

This clinical policy references Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®). CPT® is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association. All CPT codes and descriptions are copyrighted 2020, American Medical Association. All rights reserved. CPT codes and CPT descriptions are from the current manuals and those included herein are not intended to be all-inclusive and are included for informational purposes only. Codes referenced in this clinical policy are for informational purposes only. Inclusion or exclusion of any codes does not guarantee coverage. Providers should reference the most up-to-date sources of professional coding guidance prior to the submission of claims for reimbursement of covered services.

CPT® Codes	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

HCPCS Codes	Description
S2060	Lobar lung transplantation
S2152	Solid organ(s), complete or segmental, single organ or combination of organs; deceased or living donor (s), procurement, transplantation, and related complications; including: drugs; supplies; hospitalization with outpatient follow-up; medical/surgical, diagnostic, emergency, and rehabilitative services, and the number of days of pre- and post-transplant care in the global definition

ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes that Support Coverage Criteria

ICD-10-CM Code	Description
C96.6	Unifocal Langerhans-cell histiocytosis
D86.0	Sarcoidosis of lung
E84.0-E84.9	Cystic fibrosis
E88.01	Alpha-1-antitrypsin deficiency
I27.0	Primary pulmonary hypertension

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ICD-10-CM Code	Description
I27.23	Pulmonary hypertension due to lung diseases and hypoxia
I27.83	Eisenmenger's syndrome
I27.89	Other specified pulmonary heart disease
I27.9	Pulmonary heart disease, unspecified
J41.8	Mixed simple and mucopurulent chronic bronchitis
J42	Unspecified chronic bronchitis
J43.0-J43.9	Emphysema
J44.0-J44.9	Other chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
J47.0-J47.9	Bronchiectasis
J60	Coal worker's Pneumoconiosis
J61	Pneumoconiosis due to asbestos and other mineral fibers
J62.0-J62.8	Pneumoconiosis due to dust containing silica
J63.0-J63.6	Pneumoconiosis due to other inorganic dusts
J84.10	Pulmonary fibrosis, unspecified
J84.111-J84.17	Idiopathic interstitial pneumonia
J84.81	Lymphangioliomyomatosis
J84.82	Adult pulmonary Langerhans cell histiocytosis
J84.83	Surfactant mutations of the lung
J84.89	Other specified interstitial pulmonary disease
J98.2	Interstitial emphysema
J99	Respiratory disorders in diseases classified elsewhere
P27.0-P27.9	Chronic respiratory disease originating in the perinatal period
Q21.8	Other congenital malformations of cardiac septa
Q33.0-Q33.9	Congenital malformations of the lung
T86.810-T86.819	Complications of lung transplant
Z99.89	Dependence on other enabling machines and devices

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	Approval Date
Policy developed	01/14	02/14
Specialist review		
References reviewed and updated	02/15	02/15
Converted into new policy template, references reviewed and updated	02/16	
Updated criteria to match 2014 International Guidelines for the Selection of Lung Transplant Candidates: updated likelihood of survival and absolute contraindications; updated cystic fibrosis criteria; updated COPD criteria; combined diseases together that classify as interstitial lung disease; updated PAH to pulmonary vascular diseases and associated criteria.	03/16	03/16
Added pediatric specific criteria. Added "acute viral respiratory infection" to I.D.4. and "and/or smear-positive non-tuberculous mycobacterial infection" to I.D.7. Added "with a clinical trajectory of worsening quality of life and lung function" to adult cystic fibrosis criteria for frequent hospitalization. Removed background regarding lobar-lung transplant. Added HCPCS and ICD-10 code tables. Reviewed by external pediatric pulmonologist.	10/16	11/16

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Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	Approval Date
Added Eisenmenger syndrome as a qualifying condition for adult transplant. Added that the list of qualifying conditions for transplant is not all-inclusive. Added primary lung graft failure and bronchiolitis obliterans as an indication for adult and pediatric transplant since ISHLT guidelines recommend retransplant in certain cases. Updated coding. Added time frame for which smoking cessation should be documented.	11/17	11/17
In criteria pertaining to substance use, removed the statement that serial blood and urine testing” may be required, as it is informational only. In the adult COPD criteria, changed “one severe exacerbation” to “at least one severe exacerbation.”	06/18	
References reviewed and updated.	10/18	10/18
References reviewed and updated. Specialist review	08/19	09/19
Edited malignancy contraindication to not specify within 2 years, and added exceptions of early stage prostate cancer, cancer that has been completely resected, or that has been treated and poses acceptable future risk.	05/20	05/20
References reviewed and updated. Replaced “members” with “members/enrollees” in all instances.	09/20	09/20

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Important Reminder

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. The Health Plan makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. "Health Plan" means a health plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any of such health plan's affiliates, as applicable.

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This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise

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professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members/enrollees. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members/enrollees. Members/enrollees should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

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Note: For Medicaid members/enrollees, when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the coverage provisions in this clinical policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence. Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this clinical policy.

Note: For Medicare members/enrollees, to ensure consistency with the Medicare National Coverage Determinations (NCD) and Local Coverage Determinations (LCD), all applicable NCDs, LCDs, and Medicare Coverage Articles should be reviewed prior to applying the criteria set forth in this clinical policy. Refer to the CMS website at <http://www.cms.gov> for additional information.

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