

Policy References: [Local Coverage Determination Automatic External Defibrillators \(L33690\) and Policy Article \(A52458\)](#)

Documentation References: [Standard Documentation Requirements Policy Article \(PA\) A55426](#)

The treating clinician must complete the following items:

- [Standard Written Order \(SWO\)](#)
- Medical record documentation requirements (see below)

Medical Documentation

The beneficiary must have one of the following conditions;

- Documented episode of cardiac arrest due to ventricular fibrillation, not due to a transient or reversible cause
- Sustained (lasting 30 seconds or longer) ventricular tachyarrhythmia, either spontaneous or induced during an electrophysiologic (EP) study, not associated with acute MI, and not due to a transient or reversible cause
- Familial or inherited conditions with a high risk of life-threatening ventricular tachyarrhythmia such as long QT syndrome or hypertrophic cardiomyopathy
- Coronary artery disease with a documented prior MI with a measured left ventricular ejection fraction ≤ 0.35 , and inducible, sustained ventricular tachycardia (VT) or ventricular fibrillation (VF) during an EP study. The MI must have occurred more than 4 weeks prior to the prescribing of the defibrillator, and the EP test must have been performed more than 4 weeks after the qualifying MI
- Documented prior MI and a measured left ventricular ejection fraction ≤ 0.30 .
- Has an ischemic dilated cardiomyopathy, documented prior MI, New York Heart Association (NYHA) Class II and III heart failure, and measured left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) $\leq 35\%$
- Has nonischemic dilated cardiomyopathy > 3 months, NYHA Class II and III heart failure, and measured LVEF $\leq 35\%$
- Meets one of the above criteria and has NYHA Class IV heart failure **and**
- Implantation surgery is contraindicated; **or**
- Has a previously implanted defibrillator now requiring explantation.

Beneficiary must not have:

- Cardiogenic shock or symptomatic hypotension while in a stable baseline rhythm; **or**
- Had a coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) or percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA) within past 3 months; **or**
- Had an enzyme-positive MI within past month; **or**
- Clinical symptoms or findings that would make them a candidate for coronary revascularization; **or**
- Irreversible brain damage from preexisting cerebral disease; **or**
- Any disease (e.g. cancer, uremia, liver failure) other than cardiac disease associated with a likelihood of survival less than one year

The content of this document was prepared as an educational tool and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. Use of this document is not intended to take the place of either written law or regulations. Suppliers are reminded to review the Local Coverage Determination and Policy Article for specific documentation guidelines.