



**Subject:** Percutaneous Left Atrial Appendage Closure Procedures\*

**Effective Date:** September 29, 2015

**Department:** Utilization Management

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**Policy:** Percutaneous left atrial appendage closure to reduce stroke risk in patients with atrial fibrillation is reimbursable under Plans administered by QualCare, Inc., for the device specified below.

**Objective:** To assure proper and consistent reimbursement and to limit application of percutaneous left atrial appendage closure to the device and population in which efficacy is supported by peer-reviewed literature.

**Procedure:**

A. Percutaneous left atrial appendage closure using the Watchman™ device [CPT-0281T], to reduce stroke/embolism risk is reimbursable when ALL of the following criteria are met:

- 1) The diagnosis is atrial fibrillation, **ICD-9 427.31, ICD 10- I48.0-I48.2, I48.91**, without valvular heart disease.
- 2) The member has a CHADS2 or CHA2DS2-VASc score of 2 or greater (see note below), reflecting increased risk of stroke or embolism.

- 3) The requesting provider deems the member suitable for warfarin anticoagulation therapy( ie there are no absolute contraindications to warfarin anticoagulation therapy)
- 4) The requesting physician documents an appropriate rationale to use a non-pharmacologic alternative to warfarin, considering the safety and effectiveness of the Watchman™ device compared to warfarin.

All requests for percutaneous left atrial appendage closure require medical director review.

B. Any other device used for percutaneous left atrial appendage closure is considered investigational, experimental or unproven due to insufficient published peer-reviewed literature that supports safety and efficacy, including but not limited to:

- 1) Amplatzer® septal closure device
- 2) Amplatzer Amulet® device
- 3) Lariat® Loop Applicator device
- 4) Cardioblate® closure device

Note: The CHADS2 score assigns one point each for the presence of congestive heart failure, hypertension, age  $\geq 75$  years, diabetes, or prior stroke or transient ischemic attack. TheCHA2DS2-VASc score includes sex, additional age categories, and the presence of vascular disease, in addition to the risk factors used in the CHADS2 score.

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\*Consistent with Summary Plan Description (SPD). When there is discordance between this policy and the SPD, the provisions of the SPD prevail.