



## Medical Policy

### Cardiac Rehabilitation in the Outpatient Setting

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#### Policy Number: 916

BCBSA Reference Number: 8.03.08 (For Plan internal use only)

#### Related Policies

None

#### Policy

##### Commercial Members: Managed Care (HMO and POS), PPO, and Indemnity

Outpatient cardiac rehabilitation programs are considered **MEDICALLY NECESSARY** for individuals with a history of the following conditions and procedures:

- Acute myocardial infarction (heart attack) within the preceding 12 months
- Coronary artery bypass graft surgery
- Percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty or coronary stenting
- Heart valve surgery
- Heart or heart-lung transplantation
- Current stable angina pectoris **OR**
- Compensated heart failure.

Repeat participation in an outpatient cardiac rehabilitation program in the absence of another qualifying cardiac event is considered **INVESTIGATIONAL**.

Intensive cardiac rehabilitation with the Ornish Program for Reversing Heart Disease, Pritikin Program, or Benson-Henry Institute Program is considered **INVESTIGATIONAL**.

Virtual cardiac rehabilitation is considered **INVESTIGATIONAL**.

Outpatient pediatric cardiac rehabilitation program for heart diseases including congenital heart disease is left to the discretion of the referring and/or ordering provider.

#### Prior Authorization Information

##### Inpatient

- For services described in this policy, precertification/preauthorization **IS REQUIRED** for all products if the procedure is performed **inpatient**.

## Outpatient

- For services described in this policy, see below for products where prior authorization **might be required** if the procedure is performed **outpatient**.

	Outpatient
Commercial Managed Care (HMO and POS)	Prior authorization is <b>not required</b> .
Commercial PPO and Indemnity	Prior authorization is <b>not required</b> .

## CPT Codes / HCPCS Codes / ICD Codes

*Inclusion or exclusion of a code does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement. Please refer to the member's contract benefits in effect at the time of service to determine coverage or non-coverage as it applies to an individual member.*

*Providers should report all services using the most up-to-date industry-standard procedure, revenue, and diagnosis codes, including modifiers where applicable.*

*The following codes are included below for informational purposes only; this is not an all-inclusive list.*

The above **medical necessity criteria** **MUST** be met for the following codes to be covered for Commercial Members: Managed Care (HMO and POS), PPO, and Indemnity:

### CPT Codes

CPT codes:	Code Description
93797	Physician services for outpatient cardiac rehab; without continuous ECG monitoring (per session)
93798	Physician services for outpatient cardiac rehab; with continuous ECG monitoring (per session)

### HCPCS Codes

HCPCS codes:	Code Description
S9472	Cardiac rehabilitation program, non-physician provider, per diem

The following ICD Diagnosis Codes are considered medically necessary when submitted with the CPT and HCPCS codes above if **medical necessity criteria** are met:

### ICD-10 Diagnoses Codes

ICD-10	Code Description
I20.1	Angina pectoris with documented spasm
I20.2	Refractory angina pectoris
I20.81	Angina pectoris with coronary microvascular dysfunction
I20.89	Other forms of angina pectoris
I20.9	Angina pectoris, unspecified
I21.01	ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction involving left main coronary artery
I21.02	ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction involving left anterior descending coronary
I21.09	ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction involving other coronary artery of anterior
I21.11	ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction involving right coronary artery
I21.19	ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction involving right coronary artery
I21.21	ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction involving left circumflex coronary artery
I21.29	ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction involving other sites
I21.3	ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction of unspecified site

I21.4	Non-ST elevation (NSTEMI) myocardial infarction
I21.9	Acute myocardial infarction, unspecified
I21.A1	Myocardial infarction type 2
I21.A9	Other myocardial infarction type
I22.0	Subsequent ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction of anterior wall
I22.1	Subsequent ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction of inferior wall
I22.8	Subsequent ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction of inferior wall
I22.9	Subsequent ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction of unspecified site
I25.10	Atherosclerotic heart disease of native coronary artery without angina pectoris
I25.110	Atherosclerotic heart disease of native coronary artery with unstable angina pectoris
I25.111	Atherosclerotic heart disease of native coronary artery with angina pectoris with documented spasm
I25.112	Atherosclerotic heart disease of native coronary artery with refractory angina pectoris
I25.118	Atherosclerotic heart disease of native coronary artery with other forms of angina
I25.119	Atherosclerotic heart disease of native coronary artery with unspecified angina pectoris
I25.2	Old myocardial infarction
I25.5	Ischemic cardiomyopathy
I25.6	Silent myocardial ischemia
I25.700	Atherosclerosis of coronary artery bypass graft(s), unspecified, with unstable angina
I25.701	Atherosclerosis of coronary artery bypass graft(s), unspecified, with angina pectoris with documented spasm
I25.702	Atherosclerosis of coronary artery bypass graft(s), unspecified, with refractory angina pectoris
I25.708	Atherosclerosis of coronary artery bypass graft(s), unspecified, with other forms of angina pectoris
I25.709	Atherosclerosis of coronary artery bypass graft(s), unspecified, with unspecified angina pectoris
I25.710	Atherosclerosis of autologous vein coronary artery bypass graft(s) with unstable angina pectoris
I25.711	Atherosclerosis of autologous vein coronary artery bypass graft(s) with angina pectoris with documented spasm
I25.712	Atherosclerosis of autologous vein coronary artery bypass graft(s) with refractory angina pectoris
I25.718	Atherosclerosis of autologous vein coronary artery bypass graft(s) with other forms of angina pectoris
I25.719	Atherosclerosis of autologous vein coronary artery bypass graft(s) with unspecified angina pectoris
I25.720	Atherosclerosis of autologous artery coronary artery bypass graft(s) with unstable angina pectoris
I25.721	Atherosclerosis of autologous artery coronary artery bypass graft(s) with angina pectoris with documented spasm
I25.722	Atherosclerosis of autologous artery coronary artery bypass graft(s) with refractory angina pectoris
I25.728	Atherosclerosis of autologous artery coronary artery bypass graft(s) with other forms of angina pectoris
I25.729	Atherosclerosis of autologous artery coronary artery bypass graft(s) with unspecified angina pectoris

I25.730	Atherosclerosis of nonautologous biological coronary artery bypass graft(s) with unstable angina pectoris
I25.731	Atherosclerosis of nonautologous biological coronary artery bypass graft(s) with angina pectoris with documented spasm
I25.732	Atherosclerosis of nonautologous biological coronary artery bypass graft(s) with refractory angina pectoris
I25.738	Atherosclerosis of nonautologous biological coronary artery bypass graft(s) with other forms of angina pectoris
I25.739	Atherosclerosis of nonautologous biological coronary artery bypass graft(s) with unspecified angina pectoris
I25.750	Atherosclerosis of native coronary artery of transplanted heart with unstable angina
I25.751	Atherosclerosis of native coronary artery of transplanted heart with angina pectoris with documented spasm
I25.752	Atherosclerosis of native coronary artery of transplanted heart with refractory angina pectoris
I25.758	Atherosclerosis of native coronary artery of transplanted heart with other forms of angina pectoris
I25.759	Atherosclerosis of native coronary artery of transplanted heart with unspecified angina pectoris
I25.760	Atherosclerosis of bypass graft of coronary artery of transplanted heart with unstable
I25.761	Atherosclerosis of bypass graft of coronary artery of transplanted heart with angina pectoris with documented spasm
I25.762	Atherosclerosis of bypass graft of coronary artery of transplanted heart with refractory angina pectoris
I25.768	Atherosclerosis of bypass graft of coronary artery of transplanted heart with other forms of angina pectoris
I25.769	Atherosclerosis of bypass graft of coronary artery of transplanted heart with unspecified angina pectoris
I25.790	Atherosclerosis of other coronary artery bypass graft(s) with unstable angina pectoris
I25.791	Atherosclerosis of other coronary artery bypass graft(s) with angina pectoris with documented spasm
I25.792	Atherosclerosis of other coronary artery bypass graft(s) with refractory angina pectoris
I25.798	Atherosclerosis of other coronary artery bypass graft(s) with other forms of angina
I25.799	Atherosclerosis of other coronary artery bypass graft(s) with unspecified angina pectoris
I25.810	Atherosclerosis of coronary artery bypass graft(s) without angina pectoris
I25.811	Atherosclerosis of native coronary artery of transplanted heart without angina pectoris
I25.812	Atherosclerosis of bypass graft of coronary artery of transplanted heart without angina pectoris
I25.89	Other forms of chronic ischemic heart disease
I25.9	Chronic ischemic heart disease, unspecified
I50.22	Chronic systolic (congestive) heart failure
I50.32	Chronic diastolic (congestive) heart failure
I50.42	Chronic combined systolic (congestive) and diastolic (congestive) heart failure
I50.812	Chronic right heart failure
I50.814	Right heart failure due to left heart failure
I50.82	Biventricular heart failure

I50.84	End stage heart failure
I50.89	Other heart failure
I50.9	Heart failure, unspecified
Z48.21	Encounter for aftercare following heart transplant
Z48.280	Encounter for aftercare following heart-lung transplant
Z48.812	Encounter for surgical aftercare following surgery on the circulatory system
Z94.1	Heart transplant status
Z94.3	Heart and lungs transplant status
Z95.1	Presence of aortocoronary bypass graft
Z95.2	Presence of prosthetic heart valve
Z95.3	Presence of xenogenic heart valve
Z95.4	Presence of other heart-valve replacement
Z95.5	Presence of coronary angioplasty implant and graft
Z96.89	Presence of other specified functional implants
Z98.61	Coronary angioplasty status
Z98.890	Other specified postprocedural states

The following HCPCS codes are considered investigational for **Commercial Members: Managed Care (HMO and POS), PPO, and Indemnity:**

### HCPCS Codes

HCPCS codes:	Code Description
G0422	Intensive cardiac rehabilitation; with or without continuous ECG monitoring with exercise, per session
G0423	Intensive cardiac rehabilitation; with or without continuous ECG monitoring; without exercise, per session

### Description

Heart disease is the leading cause of mortality in the United States, accounting for more than half of all deaths. Coronary artery disease is the most common cause of heart disease. In a 2023 update on heart disease and stroke statistics from the American Heart Association, it was estimated that 720,000 Americans have a new coronary attack (first hospitalized myocardial infarction or coronary heart disease death) and 335,000 have a recurrent attack annually.<sup>1</sup> Both coronary artery disease and various other disorders—structural heart disease and other genetic, metabolic, endocrine, toxic, inflammatory, and infectious causes—can lead to the clinical syndrome of heart failure, of which there are about 650,000 new cases in the United States annually.<sup>2</sup> Given the burden of heart disease, preventing secondary cardiac events and treating the symptoms of heart disease and heart failure have received much attention from national organizations.

### Cardiac Rehabilitation

In 1995, the U.S. Public Health Service defined cardiac rehabilitation services as, in part, “comprehensive, long-term programs involving medical evaluation, prescribed exercise, cardiac risk factor modification, education, and counseling.... [These programs] are designed to limit the physiologic and psychological effects of cardiac illness, reduce the risk for sudden death or reinfarction, control cardiac symptoms, stabilize or reverse the atherosclerotic process, and enhance the psychosocial and vocational status of selected patients.” The U.S. Public Health Service recommended cardiac rehabilitation services for patients with coronary heart disease and heart failure, including those awaiting or following cardiac transplantation. A 2010 definition of cardiac rehabilitation from the European Association of Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation stated: “Cardiac rehabilitation can be viewed as the clinical application of preventive care by means of a professional multi-disciplinary integrated approach for comprehensive risk reduction and global

long-term care of cardiac patients.”<sup>3</sup> Since the 1995 release of the U.S. Public Health Service guidelines, other societies, including in 2005 the American Heart Association<sup>4</sup> and in 2010 the Heart Failure Society of America <sup>5</sup> have developed guidelines on the role of cardiac rehabilitation in patient care.

## Summary

Cardiac rehabilitation refers to comprehensive medically supervised programs in the outpatient setting that aim to improve the function of patients with heart disease and prevent future cardiac events. National organizations have specified core components to be included in cardiac rehabilitation programs.

### Summary of Evidence

For individuals who have been diagnosed with heart disease and receive outpatient cardiac rehabilitation, the evidence includes multiple randomized controlled trials (RCTs) and systematic reviews of these trials. Relevant outcomes are overall survival (OS), disease-specific survival, symptoms, and morbid events. Meta-analyses of the available trials have found that cardiac rehabilitation improves health outcomes for select patients, particularly those with coronary heart disease, heart failure, and who have had cardiac surgical interventions. The available evidence has limitations, including lack of blinded outcome assessment, but for the survival-related outcomes of interest, this limitation is less critical. The evidence is sufficient to determine that the technology results in an improvement in the net health outcome.

For individuals who have been diagnosed with heart disease without a second event and receive repeat outpatient cardiac rehabilitation, the evidence includes no trials. Relevant outcomes are OS, disease-specific survival, symptoms, and morbid events. No studies were identified evaluating the effectiveness of repeat participation in a cardiac rehabilitation program. The evidence is insufficient to determine that the technology results in an improvement in the net health outcome.

For individuals who have been diagnosed with heart disease and receive intensive cardiac rehabilitation with the Ornish Program for Reversing Heart Disease, the evidence includes an RCT and uncontrolled studies. Relevant outcomes are OS, disease-specific survival, symptoms, and morbid events. No RCTs have compared the Ornish Program with a “standard” cardiac rehabilitation program; an RCT compared it with usual care. The trial included patients with coronary artery disease and no recent cardiac events and had mixed findings at 1 and 5 years. The trial had a small sample size for a cardiac trial (N=48), and only 35 patients were available for the 5-year follow-up. The Ornish Program is considered by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services as an intensive cardiac rehabilitation program, but the program described in the RCT could meet criteria for standard cardiac rehabilitation. No studies were identified comparing the Ornish Program with any other cardiac rehabilitation program. The evidence is insufficient to determine that the technology results in an improvement in the net health outcome.

For individuals who have been diagnosed with heart disease and receive intensive cardiac rehabilitation with the Pritikin Program, the evidence includes 2 nonrandomized studies. Relevant outcomes are OS, disease-specific survival, symptoms, and morbid events. Studies are needed that compare the impact of intensive cardiac rehabilitation using the Pritikin Program with standard outpatient cardiac rehabilitation programs for these outcomes. The evidence is insufficient to determine that the technology results in an improvement in the net health outcome.

For individuals who have been diagnosed with heart disease and receive intensive cardiac rehabilitation with the Benson-Henry Institute Program, the evidence includes a case-control study and case series. Relevant outcomes are OS, disease-specific survival, symptoms, and morbid events. Studies are needed that compare the impact of intensive cardiac rehabilitation using the Benson-Henry Institute Program with standard outpatient cardiac rehabilitation programs. The evidence is insufficient to determine that the technology results in an improvement in the net health outcome.

For individuals who have been diagnosed with heart disease and receive virtual cardiac rehabilitation, the evidence includes systematic reviews/meta-analyses, RCTs, and retrospective studies. Relevant outcomes are OS, disease-specific survival, symptoms, and morbid events. Meta-analyses have found beneficial effects of virtual cardiac rehabilitation on physical activity and quality of life, but not on cardiovascular hospitalization or mortality. The few available prospective randomized studies have conflicting findings on the effect of virtual cardiac rehabilitation compared to traditional outpatient cardiac

rehabilitation on hospital readmission. The evidence is insufficient to determine that the technology results in an improvement in the net health outcome.

## Policy History

Date	Action
5/2025	Annual policy review. Summary and references updated. Policy statements unchanged.
10/2023	Clarified coding information.
8/2023	Annual policy review. Added investigational policy statement for virtual cardiac rehabilitation. Effective 8/1/2023.
10/2022	Clarified coding information.
7/2021	Clarified coding information.
5/2021	Annual policy review. Investigational policy statement clarified for intensive cardiac rehabilitation with the Benson-Henry Institute Program.
1/2021	Policy clarified to indicate outpatient pediatric cardiac rehabilitation program for congenital heart disease is left to the discretion of the referring and/or ordering provider. Medicare information removed. See MP #132 Medicare Advantage Management for local coverage determination and national coverage determination reference.
5/2020	Annual policy review. Description, summary, and references updated. Policy statements unchanged.
4/2019	Annual policy review. Description, summary, and references updated. Policy statements unchanged.
8/2018	Annual policy review. Policy criteria revised. Effective 8/1/2018.
11/2017	Annual policy review. New investigational indications described. Clarified coding information. Effective 11/1/2017.
7/2016	Annual policy review. New references added.
4/2016	Annual policy review. New references added.
8/2015	Annual policy review. New references added.
9/2015	Medically necessary statement on acute myocardial infarction revised; preceding 12 months removed. Clarified coding information. Effective 9/1/2015.
9/2014	NCD Cardiac Rehabilitation Programs (20.10) updated. NCD Cardiac Rehabilitation Programs for Chronic Heart Failure (20.10.1) added.
9/2014	Annual policy review. New references added.
6/2014	Updated Coding section with ICD10 procedure and diagnosis codes. Effective 10/2015.
8/2013	Annual policy review. New references added.
2/2013	New policy describing coverage and non-coverage.

## Information Pertaining to All Blue Cross Blue Shield Medical Policies

Click on any of the following terms to access the relevant information:

[Medical Policy Terms of Use](#)

[Managed Care Guidelines](#)

[Indemnity/PPO Guidelines](#)

[Clinical Exception Process](#)

[Medical Technology Assessment Guidelines](#)

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