Automatic External Defibrillator (AED), garment type

The majority of sudden cardiac deaths related to coronary artery disease are thought to be from ventricular fibrillation. Ventricular tachycardia has also been implicated in these situations. Early defibrillation increases patient survival. Those patients defibrillated within one minute of the episode may achieve extremely high survival rates (up to 97%). A ten minute delay in treatment yields a successful survival rate as low as 5%. 75% of ventricular fibrillations occur in the home.

The wearable device functions as both a defibrillator and cardioverter by varying the amount of electrical shock, based on the identified cardiac rhythm.

Coverage and Payment Policy

Prior authorization is required.

Requesting provider must submit the following documentation:

1. The beneficiary requires and is in a waiting period for an implantable device; or
2. The use of an implantable cardioverter/defibrillator is contraindicated; or
3. A previously implanted device requires removal; or
4. The beneficiary has been approved and is on a transplant waiting list; and

Documentation must also include one of the following:

1. An episode of ventricular fibrillation or an episode of ventricular tachycardia of at least 30 second duration is documented. The episode may not be due to a transient or reversible cause and may not have occurred during the first 48 hours post myocardial infarction; or
2. Documentation of a familial or inherited condition which puts the beneficiary at a high risk of a life threatening tachyarrhythmia; or
3. Documentation of a prior myocardial infarction or cardiomyopathy and a left ventricular ejection fraction of 0.35 or less

Initial approval will be for a rental period of 90 days. Extensions will require submission of an updated clinical evaluation, report of compliance with use and an updated treatment plan.

Approved by: _____ Associate Medical Director

Jerry Fingerut, MD

Date: ___8 December 2014___

Reviewed: _____

Revised: _____