

Meeting: Utilization Management Committee	Date: 2/20/2025
Title/Topic: Medical Policy – Endobronchial Valves for the Treatment of Severe Emphysema	Policy Number: n05666
Purpose: Annual Review	Outcome: Accept with changes as outlined
Line of Business: Commercial and Medicare	Effective Date: 2/20/2025

**INTRODUCTION:**

*Includes definition of problem or opportunity. Provides background information on the topic. Describes current state. May also include prior state and/or factors that have changed. Includes operational definitions where key terms may have varied interpretation.*

The Zephyr® Endobronchial Valve System is used for treating patients with severe emphysema. Endobronchial valves (EBV) have been proposed as a less invasive alternative to lung volume reduction surgery (LVRS) in emphysema, where damaged tissue is surgically removed to make the lungs smaller allowing them to function better.

This medical policy provides guidance for Utilization Management Coordinator Registered Nurses (UMC-RN) regarding determinations involving the medical necessity of endobronchial valve placement for the treatment of severe emphysema. This policy is due for annual review.

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

*States recommendations in specific terms. Includes a summary of what should be accomplished, methods, and timetable (if applicable). Recommendations on implementation and follow-up plans may also be included.*

Annual review has been conducted and the Endobronchial Valves for the Treatment of Severe Emphysema medical policy is presented for review and approval as written.

No changes were made to the intention or utilization guidance of this policy. Annual review was performed, a review and update of references was conducted, and CPT/HCPCS code verification and update was completed.

**ANALYSIS/JUSTIFICATION:**

*Includes information relevant to the recommended action including information used in formulation the recommendations. Information will include reference to any existing Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) coverage determinations as well as any existing established vendor criteria. Information may include financial/cost data, service measures, projections or other key measures or process tools, recommendations from a clinical provider with expertise regarding the topic, and/or information from other widely used treatment guidelines or peer reviewed clinical literature.*

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) does not have a National Coverage Determination (NCD) or Local Coverage Determination (LCD) specific to Zephyr or endobronchial valves. CMS does have an NCD which addresses lung volume reduction surgery (LVRS), but NCD does not provide any reference or guidance surrounding the use of endobronchial valve to achieve lung volume reduction.

MCG 29<sup>th</sup> edition provides no specific guidelines for endobronchial valve surgery but does include a footnote under the Thoracic Surgery or Procedure GRG discussing bronchoscopic lung volume reduction achieved by endobronchial valve as well as lung volume reduction surgery. The footnote indicates a need for appropriate selection of patients for procedure but does not provide specific criteria to evaluate the medical necessity as applied to an individual patient.

Endobronchial valve lung volume reduction is supported for appropriately selected patients by the Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (GOLD) and National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE).

**REFERENCES:**

*Includes detailed description regarding source(s) of information used for development of policy or recommendations via citation.*

- Ferguson, G.T. (updated through 2023, November 17,) Management of refractory chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. UpToDate. [www.uptodate.com](http://www.uptodate.com)
- Machuzak, M.S (updated through 2023, June 9,) Bronchoscopic treatment of emphysema. UpToDate. [www.uptodate.com](http://www.uptodate.com) Accessed 01/05/2024.
- MCG, 29th Edition Bronchoscopy, Diagnostic and Interventional ACG: A-0244
- MCG, 29th Edition- Thoracic surgery or procedure GRG: SG-TS (ISC GRG)
- US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Summary of safety and effectiveness data (SSED): Zephyr endobronchial valve system. Notice of FDA approval June 29, 2018.

**REVISION REASON:**

*Includes the date changes or updates were made and summary of changes applied.*

2/20/2025- Annual review was completed. References were reviewed and updated. A CPT/HCPCS code review was conducted with updates made. Added NH TPA as a covered LOB.

**Disclaimer:**

Contract language as well as state and federal laws take precedence over any medical policy.

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