Ventricular assist device (VAD) is defined as a device that provides mechanical support to a damaged or weakened heart thereby assisting the heart to pump blood.

The Division of Medicaid (DOM) will cover medically necessary procedures for the insertion or removal of an FDA-approved VAD in accordance with its FDA-approved uses as follows:

- Post-cardiotomy

  Post-cardiotomy procedures for insertion/removal of a VAD are performed during the period following open-heart surgery.

- Bridge-to-transplant

  Bridge-to-transplant procedures for insertion/removal of a VAD are performed during the period prior to heart transplant when the patient is at imminent risk of dying before donor heart procurement.

- Destination therapy

  Destination therapy procedures for insertion/removal of a VAD are performed as a permanent mechanical cardiac support for individuals with severe New York Heart Association (NYHA) Class IV heart failure, and who are not eligible for heart transplantation.

Exclusions

- Procedures using non-FDA approved devices and/or done for indications other than those approved by the FDA
- Procedures using devices that are considered experimental, investigational, or part of clinical trials
- Procedures for replacement of the human heart with an artificial heart

DOM does not allow separate reimbursement for the VAD itself.