

## CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL

CHAPTER: 2  
SECTION: 11.6  
TITLE: TRANSJUGULAR INTRAHEPATIC PORTOSYSTEMIC SHUNT (TIPS)

AUTHORITY: 38 CFR 17.270(a) and 17.272(a)(14)

RELATED AUTHORITY: 32 CFR 199.4 (c)(2) and (c)(3)

### I. EFFECTIVE DATE

A. September 29, 1995

B. June 8, 2000, for refractory ascites.

### II. DESCRIPTION

Transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt (TIPS) is an invasive radiological procedure performed percutaneously through the jugular vein and involves the creation of an intrahepatic shunt between the hepatic vein and portal vein.

### III. POLICY

TIPS is covered for the following indications (this list is not all inclusive):

1. treatment of acute or recurrent esophageal variceal bleeding which is not controlled by or is unresponsive to standard treatment such as endoscopic therapy, pharmacological therapy or surgical shunt;

2. patients with irreversible hepatic disease who are candidates for liver transplantation and require control of esophageal variceal bleeding; and

3. for the treatment of patients with refractory ascites.

### IV. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Claims for services or supplies related to TIPS require medical review.

### V. EXCLUSIONS

TIPS is considered experimental/ investigational (unproven) for the following indications:

1. As initial therapy for acute or recurrent esophageal variceal bleeding.

2. For the treatment of Budd-Chiari syndrome, hepatorenal syndrome, gastric variceal bleeding.
3. Preoperative portal decompression to facilitate liver transplantation.

**\*END OF POLICY\***