

CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL

CHAPTER: 2
SECTION: 4.5
TITLE: INTRACORONARY STENTS

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

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

I. EFFECTIVE DATE

- A. November 1, 1996, for intracoronary stents.
- B. July 1, 2001, for acute ischemic and acute myocardial infarction.

II. PROCEDURE CODE(S)

92980, 92981

III. DESCRIPTION

Intracoronary stenting consists of coils or tubes that are positioned within the coronary vessel to provide support or "scaffolding" to the internal vessel architecture. Most stents are metallic coils or tubes and balloon expandable or self-expanding.

IV. POLICY

A. Coronary artery stenting may be cost shared for the following indications as an adjunct to percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty:

- 1. To reduce the incident of restenosis.
- 2. For acute or vulnerable vessel closure following balloon angioplasty.

B. Coronary artery stents are covered for treatment of saphenous vein narrowing with previous coronary angioplasty bypass grafting.

C. Intracoronary stents must have FDA approval based on its specific intention.

V. EXCLUSIONS

- A. Long and/or diffusely diseased vessels.
- B. Ostial lesions or lesions of the left main coronary artery.

- C. Restenotic lesions following stenting.
- D. Totally occluded lesions.

END OF POLICY