

CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL

CHAPTER: 2
SECTION: 25.3
TITLE: EXTRACORPOREAL MEMBRANE OXYGENATION (ECMO)

AUTHORITY: 38 USC 1713; 38 CFR 17.270(a) and 17.272(a)

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

TRICARE POLICY MANUAL: N/A

I. EFFECTIVE DATE

May 1, 1987

II. PROCEDURE CODE(S)

33960, 33961, and 36822

III. DESCRIPTION

ECMO is a procedure which entails the use of a modified heart-lung machine to support gas exchange for prolonged periods in neonates with severe respiratory failure who are unresponsive to conventional methods of therapy.

IV. POLICY

The use of ECMO for moribund patients with intractable respiratory failure is covered.

V. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

A. If an inquiry is received on a previously denied claim, the claim shall be processed following the above policy.

B. All claims should contain sufficient medical documentation which establishes that the patient is moribund and unresponsive to conventional methods of therapy.

END OF POLICY