Introduction

The heart’s two upper chambers are called atria. The septum is the thin wall of tissue that separates the atria. Sometimes there may be a congenital heart defect in which there is a hole in the septum between the two atria. This is called an atrial septal defect. Atrial septal defects may not cause any problems and might not even be diagnosed until adulthood. Larger atrial septal defects may cause problems and may need to be closed.

One way to treat an atrial septal defect is to use a catheter. A catheter is a long, thin tube which is threaded through a blood vessel in the groin to the heart. Once the catheter is in the correct location, a small device is put in place to seal the opening between the atria. This policy discusses when a catheter may be considered medically necessary to treat atrial septal defects.

The foramen ovale is an opening in the septum between the two atria that is normally found in a baby before it is born. This opening usually closes soon after birth. If a foramen ovale doesn’t automatically close after the baby is born, it is called a patent foramen ovale (PFO). For most people a patent foramen ovale does not cause problems. In the small subset of people who have had a stroke where the cause is uncertain, using a new device to close the PFO may decrease the risk of a second stroke.
Note: The Introduction section is for your general knowledge and is not to be taken as policy coverage criteria. The rest of the policy uses specific words and concepts familiar to medical professionals. It is intended for providers. A provider can be a person, such as a doctor, nurse, psychologist, or dentist. A provider also can be a place where medical care is given, like a hospital, clinic, or lab. This policy informs them about when a service may be covered.

## Policy Coverage Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FDA approved devices</th>
<th>Medical Necessity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Atrial septal defects (ASD) closure devices:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Amplatzer™ Septal Occluder</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• GORE CARDIOFORM Septal Occluder</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transcatheter closure of secundum atrial septal defects may be considered medically necessary when using a device that has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for that purpose and used according to the label indications including:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Patients with echocardiographic evidence of ostium secundum atrial septal defect;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND either ONE of the following:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Clinical evidence of right ventricular volume overload (ie, 1.5:1 degree of left-to-right shunt or right ventricular enlargement);</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Clinical evidence of paradoxical embolism is present</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transcatheter closure of secundum atrial septal defects is considered investigational for all other indications not meeting criteria outlined above.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Patent foramen ovale (PFO) closure devices:  |
| • Amplatzer™ PFO Occluder  |
| • GORE CARDIOFORM Septal Occluder  |
| The percutaneous transcatheter closure of a patent foramen ovale using a device that has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for that purpose may be considered medically necessary to reduce the risk of recurrent ischemic stroke if patient meets all of the following: |
| • The patient is between the ages of 18 and 60 years of age  |
| • Diagnosed with patent foramen ovale with a right-to-left interatrial shunt confirmed by echocardiography with at least ONE of the following characteristics:  |
| o PFO with large shunt (defined as >30 microbubbles in the left atrium within 3 cardiac cycles, after opacification of the |
FDA approved devices | Medical Necessity
---|---
right atrium); OR
- PFO associated with atrial septal aneurysm on transesophageal examination (septum primum excursion >10 mm)
- Documented history of a cryptogenic stroke due to a presumed paradoxical embolism, as determined by:
  - A neurologist and cardiologist following an evaluation to exclude any other identifiable cause of stroke, including large vessel atherosclerotic disease and small vessel occlusive disease

AND
- None of the following are present:
  - Uncontrolled vascular risk factors, including uncontrolled diabetes or uncontrolled hypertension
  - Other sources of right-to-left shunts, including an atrial septal defect and/or fenestrated septum
  - Active endocarditis or other untreated infections
  - Inferior vena cava filter

Documentation Requirements
The patient’s medical records submitted for review should document that medical necessity criteria are met. The record should include clinical documentation of:
- Diagnosis/condition
- History and physical examination documenting the severity of the condition
- Results and/or reports from prior imaging or testing completed
- Any prior procedures
- Name of device to be used for closure

Coding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CPT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93580</td>
<td>Percutaneous transcatheter closure of congenital interatrial communication (ie, Fontan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Definition of Terms

**Atrial septal aneurysm:** Is a rare, but well-recognized cardiac abnormality in which there is an overabundant or weakened septal tissue allowing the septum to become very mobile and protrude or bulge into the right or left atrium of at least 10 mm to 15 mm. This can be visualized at echocardiography and the degree of deviation can be measured. Atrial septal aneurysms are often associated with larger PFOs.

**Cryptogenic stroke:** A stroke that happens for an unknown reason after other causes such as cardiac, pulmonary, vascular or neurologic sources have been ruled out.

**Ischemic stroke:** A stroke that happens when a blood vessel that carries blood to the brain is blocked either due to arteries narrowed by atherosclerosis or a blood clot (thrombus).

**Paradoxical embolism (PDE):** This happens when a clot (thrombus) passes through the patent foramen ovale (PFO) in the heart, bypassing the lungs that act as a clot filter.

**Septum primum:** A septum in the embryonic heart, dividing the primitive atrium into right and left chambers from Latin, meaning ‘first septum’.

### Evidence Review

**Description**

Patent foramen ovale (PFO) and atrial septal defects (ASDs) are relatively common congenital heart defects that can be associated with a range of symptoms. PFOs may be asymptomatic but have been associated with higher rates of cryptogenic stroke. PFOs have also been investigated...
in association with a variety of other conditions, such as a migraine. Depending on their size, ASDs may lead to left-to-right shunting and signs and symptoms of pulmonary overload. Repair of ASDs is indicated for patients with a significant degree of left-to-right shunting. Transcatheter closure devices have been developed to repair PFO and ASDs. These devices are alternatives to open surgical repair for ASDs or treatment with antiplatelet and/or anticoagulant medications in patients with cryptogenic stroke and PFO.

Background

Patent Foramen Ovale

The foramen ovale, a component of fetal cardiovascular circulation, consists of a communication between the right and left atrium that functions as a vascular bypass of the uninflated lungs. The ductus arteriosus is another feature of the fetal cardiovascular circulation, consisting of a connection between the pulmonary artery and the distal aorta. Before birth, the foramen ovale is held open by the large flow of blood into the left atrium from the inferior vena cava. Over the course of months after birth, an increase in left atrial pressure and a decrease in right atrial pressure result in permanent closure of the foramen ovale in most individuals. However, a patent foramen ovale (PFO) is a common finding in 25% of asymptomatic adults.\(^1\) In some epidemiologic studies, PFO has been associated with cryptogenic stroke, defined as an ischemic stroke occurring in the absence of potential cardiac, pulmonary, vascular, or neurologic sources. Studies have also shown an association between PFO and migraine headache.

Atrial Septal Defects

Unlike PFO, which represents the postnatal persistence of normal fetal cardiovascular physiology, atrial septal defects (ASDs) represent an abnormality in the development of the heart that results in free communication between the atria. ASDs are categorized by their anatomy. Ostium secundum describes defects located midseptally and are typically near the fossa ovalis. Ostium primum defects lie immediately adjacent to the atrioventricular valves and are within the spectrum of atrioventricular septal defects. Primum defects occur commonly in patients with Down syndrome. Sinus venous defects occur high in the atrial septum and are frequently associated with anomalies of the pulmonary veins.

Ostium secundum ASDs are the third most common form of congenital heart disorder and among the most common congenital cardiac malformations in adults, accounting for 30% to
40% of these patients older than age 40 years. The ASD often goes unnoticed for decades because the physical signs are subtle and the clinical sequelae are mild. However, virtually all patients who survive into their sixth decade are symptomatic; fewer than 50% of patients survive beyond age 40 to 50 years due to heart failure or pulmonary hypertension related to the left-to-right shunt. Symptoms related to ASD depend on the size of the defect and the relative diastolic filling properties of the left and right ventricles. Reduced left ventricular compliance, and mitral stenosis will increase left-to-right shunting across the defect. Conditions that reduce right ventricular compliance and tricuspid stenosis will reduce left-to-right shunting or cause a right-to-left shunt. Symptoms of an ASD include exercise intolerance and dyspnea, atrial fibrillation, and less commonly, signs of right heart failure. Patients with ASDs are also at risk for paradoxical emboli.

**Treatment**

Repair of ASDs is recommended for those with a pulmonary-to-systemic flow ratio (Qp: Qs) exceeding 1.5:1.0. Despite the success of surgical repair, there has been interest in developing a transcatheter-based approach to ASD repair to avoid the risks and morbidity of open heart surgery. A variety of devices have been researched. Technical challenges include minimizing the size of the device so that smaller catheters can be used, developing techniques to center the device properly across the ASD, and ensuring that the device can be easily retrieved or repositioned, if necessary.

Individuals with ASDs and a history of cryptogenic stroke are typically treated with antiplatelet agents, given an absence of evidence that systemic anticoagulation is associated with outcome improvements.

**Transcatheter Closure Devices**

Transcatheter PFO and ASD occluders typically consist of a single or paired wire mesh discs covered or filled with polyester or polymer fabric that are placed over the septal defect. Over time, the occlusion system is epithelialized. ASD occluder devices consist of flexible mesh discs delivered via catheter to cover the ASD.
Summary of Evidence

For individuals who have PFO and cryptogenic stroke who receive PFO closure with a transcatheter device, the evidence includes multiple randomized controlled trials (RCTs) comparing device-based PFO closure with medical therapy, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, and observational studies. Relevant outcomes are symptoms, change in disease status, overall survival, morbid events, and treatment-related morbidity and mortality. The RCTs comparing PFO closure with medical management have suggested that PFO closure is more effective than medical therapy in reducing event rates. Although these results were not statistically significant by intention-to-treat analyses in the first 3 trials (ie, Evaluation of the STARFlex Septal Closure System in Patients with a Stroke and/or Transient Ischemic Attack due to Presumed Paradoxical Embolism through a Patent Foramen Ovale (CLOSURE), Amplatzer PFO Occluder with Medical Treatment in Patients with Cryptogenic Embolism (PC-Trial), and Randomized Evaluation of Recurrent Stroke Comparing PFO Closure to Established Current Standard of Care Treatment (RESPECT; initial study)), they were statistically significant in later trials (ie, RESPECT (extended follow-up), Reduction in the Use of Corticosteroids in Exacerbated COPD (REDUCE), and Patent Foramen Ovale Closure or Anticoagulants versus Antiplatelet Therapy to Prevent Stroke Recurrence (CLOSE)). Use of appropriate patient selection criteria to eliminate other causes of cryptogenic stroke in RESPECT, REDUCE, and CLOSE trials contributed to findings of the superiority of PFO closure compared with medical management. Of note, higher rates of atrial fibrillation were reported in a few of the individual trials and in the meta-analysis that incorporated evidence from RESPECT, REDUCE, and CLOSE trials. The evidence is sufficient to determine that the technology results in a meaningful improvement in the net health outcome, and observational studies.

For individuals who have PFO and migraines who receive PFO closure with a transcatheter device, the evidence includes two RCTs of PFO closure and multiple observational studies reporting on the association between PFO and migraine. Relevant outcomes are symptoms, quality of life, medication use, and treatment-related morbidity and mortality. The available sham-controlled randomized trial did not demonstrate significant improvements in migraine symptoms after PFO closure. A second RCT with blinded end point evaluation did not demonstrate reductions in migraine days after PFO closure but likely was underpowered. Nonrandomized studies have shown highly variable rates of migraine reduction after PFO closure. The evidence is insufficient to determine the effects of the technology on health outcomes.

For individuals who have PFO and conditions associated with PFO other than cryptogenic stroke or migraine (eg, platypnea-orthodeoxia syndrome, myocardial infarction with normal coronary arteries, decompression illness, high-altitude pulmonary edema, obstructive sleep apnea) who
receive PFO closure with a transcatheter device, the evidence includes small case series and case reports. Relevant outcomes are symptoms, change in disease status, morbid events, and treatment-related morbidity and mortality. Comparative studies are needed to evaluate outcomes in similar patient groups treated with and without PFO closure. The evidence is insufficient to determine the effects of the technology on health outcomes.

For individuals who have ASD and evidence of left-to-right shunt or right ventricular overload who receive ASD closure with a transcatheter device, the evidence includes nonrandomized comparative studies and single-arm studies. Relevant outcomes are symptoms, change in disease status, and treatment-related morbidity and mortality. The available nonrandomized comparative studies and single-arm case series have shown rates of closure using transcatheter-based devices approaching the high success rates of surgery, which are supported by meta-analyses of these studies. The percutaneous approach has a low complication rate and avoids the morbidity and complications of open surgery. If the percutaneous approach is unsuccessful, ASD closure can be achieved using surgery. Because of the benefits of percutaneous closure over open surgery, it can be determined that transcatheter ASD closure improves outcomes in patients with an indication for ASD closure. The evidence is sufficient to determine that the technology results in a meaningful improvement in the net health outcome.

**Ongoing and Unpublished Clinical Trials**

Some currently unpublished trials that might influence this review are listed in Table 1.

**Table 1. Summary of Key Clinical Trials**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NCT No.</th>
<th>Trial Name</th>
<th>Planned Enrollment</th>
<th>Completion Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCT00738894a</td>
<td>GORE® HELEX® Septal Occluder / GORE® Septal Occluder and Antiplatelet Medical Management for Reduction of Recurrent Stroke or Imaging-Confirmed TIA in Patients With Patent Foramen Ovale (PFO)</td>
<td>664</td>
<td>Feb 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCT03867708</td>
<td>Outcomes of Transcatheter Closure of Secundum Atrial Septal Defect Guided by Three-dimensional</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>June 2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Clinical Input Received from Physician Specialty Societies and Academic Medical Centers

While the various physician specialty societies and academic medical centers may collaborate with and make recommendations during this process, through the provision of appropriate reviewers, input received does not represent an endorsement or position statement by the physician specialty societies or academic medical centers, unless otherwise noted.

In response to requests, input was received from 2 academic medical centers (1 of which provided 2 responses) while this policy was under review in 2016. Input was mixed about the medical necessity of closure devices for patent foramen ovale (PFO) in patients with cryptogenic stroke or transient ischemic attack due to presumed paradoxical embolism through the PFO. There was consensus that use of closure devices for PFO in patients with other conditions (eg, migraine, platypnea-orthodeoxia syndrome) is not medically necessary.

Practice Guidelines and Position Statements

The American College of Chest Physicians

In 2012, the American College of Chest Physicians updated its guidelines on antithrombotic therapy and the prevention of thrombosis, which made the following recommendations related to patent foramen ovale (PFO) and cryptogenic stroke⁴⁶:
We suggest that patients with stroke and PFO are treated with antiplatelet therapy following the recommendations for patients with noncardioembolic stroke.... In patients with a history of noncardioembolic ischemic stroke or TIA, we recommend long-term treatment with aspirin (75-100 mg once daily), clopidogrel (75 mg once daily), aspirin/extended release dipyridamole (25 mg/200 mg bid), or cilostazol (100 mg bid) over no antiplatelet therapy (Grade 1A), oral anticoagulants (Grade 1B), the combination of clopidogrel plus aspirin (Grade 1B), or triflusal (Grade 2B).

The American Academy of Neurology

In 2016, the American Academy of Neurology updated its evidence-based guidelines on the management of patients with stroke and PFO to address whether percutaneous closure of PFO is superior to medical therapy alone. Following a systematic review of the literature and structured formulation of recommendations, the Academy developed conclusions for the Amplatzer PFO Occluder devices. For patients with cryptogenic stroke and PFO, percutaneous PFO closure with the Amplatzer PFO Occluder:

- "Possibly decreases the risk of recurrent stroke—RD [risk difference] -1.68%, 95% CI [confidence interval]-3.18% to -0.19%;"
- "Possibly increases the risk of new-onset AF [atrial fibrillation] —RD 1.64%, 95% CI 0.07%–3.2% (2 Class I studies; confidence downgraded to low for risk of bias relative to magnitude of effect and imprecision);"
- "Is highly likely to be associated with a procedural complication risk of 3.4%, 95% CI 2.3%–5% (2 Class I studies)."

The guidelines concluded:

Clinicians should not routinely offer percutaneous PFO closure to patients with cryptogenic ischemic stroke outside of a research setting (Level R). In rare circumstances, such as recurrent strokes despite adequate medical therapy with no other mechanism identified, clinicians may offer the AMPLATZER PFO Occluder if it is available (Level C).
American Heart Association and American Stroke Association

In 2014, the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association updated its guidelines on the prevention of stroke in patients with ischemic stroke or transient ischemic attack. The guidelines made the following recommendations for device-based closure for PFO48:

- For patients with a cryptogenic ischemic stroke or TIA [transient ischemic attack] and a PFO without evidence for DVT [deep vein thrombosis], available data do not support a benefit for PFO closure (Class III; Level of Evidence A).

- In the setting of PFO and DVT, PFO closure by a transcatheter device might be considered, depending on the risk of recurrent DVT (Class IIb; Level of Evidence C).

American College of Cardiology and American Heart Association

In 2018, the American College of Cardiology and American Heart Association updated guidelines on the management of adults with congenital heart disease.49 The treatment recommendations are summarized in Table 10., coronary sinus, or primum atrial septal defect, however, surgery rather than percutaneous closure was recommended.

Table 2. American College of Cardiology and American Heart Association Recommendations for Treating Atrial Septal Defect

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>COR(^a/LOE(^b)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Symptomatic isolated secundum ASD, right atrial and/or RV enlargement, and net left-to-right shunt sufficiency large enough to cause physiological sequelae, without cyanosis at rest or during exercise</td>
<td>Transcatheter or surgical closure</td>
<td>I(^1)/B-NR2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symptomatic primum ASD, sinus venosus defect, or coronary sinus defect, right atrial and/or RV enlargement, and net left-to-right shunt sufficiency large enough to cause physiological sequelae, without cyanosis at rest or during exercise</td>
<td>Surgical closure unless precluded by comorbidities</td>
<td>I(^1)/B-NR2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asymptomatic isolated secundum ASD, right atrial and RV enlargement, and net left-to-right shunt sufficiency large enough to cause physiological sequelae, without cyanosis at rest or during exercise</td>
<td>Transcatheter or surgical closure</td>
<td>II(^a)/C-LD2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Medicare National Coverage**

There is no national coverage determination.

**Regulatory Status**

**Patent Foramen Ovale (PFO) Closure Devices**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved three devices for ASD closure through the premarket approval process or a premarket approval supplement: the Amplatzer Septal Occluder, the Gore HELEX Septal Occluder (discontinued), and the Gore CARDIOFORM Septal Occluder (see Table 3) (FDA product code: MLV).

In 2002, two transcatheter devices were cleared for marketing by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration FDA through a humanitarian device exemption as treatment for patients with cryptogenic stroke and PFO: the CardioSEAL® Septal Occlusion System (NMT Medical; device code: 040039).
no longer commercially available) and the Amplatzer® PFO Occluder (Amplatzer, now St. Jude Medical). Following the limited FDA approval, use of PFO closure devices increased by more than 50-fold, well in excess of the 4000 per year threshold intended under the humanitarian device exemption,² prompting the FDA to withdraw the humanitarian device exemption approval for these devices in 2007. The Amplatzer PFO Occluder was approved through the premarket approval process in 2016.

In March 2018, the FDA granted an expanded indication to the Gore Cardioform Septal Occluder to include closure of PFO to reduce the risk of recurrent stroke (see Table 3). The new indication was based on results of the REDUCE pivotal clinical trial.³

---

Table 3. Patent Foramen Ovale Closure Devices Approved by the Food and Drug Administration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Device</th>
<th>Manufacturer</th>
<th>PMA Approval Date</th>
<th>Indications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amplatzer™ PFO Occluder</td>
<td>St. Jude Medical</td>
<td>Nov 2016</td>
<td>For percutaneous transcatheter closure of a patent foramen ovale (PFO) to reduce the risk of recurrent ischemic stroke in patients, predominantly between the ages of 18 and 60 years, who have had a cryptogenic stroke due to a presumed paradoxical embolism, as determined by a neurologist and cardiologist following an evaluation to exclude known causes of ischemic stroke.⁴</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GORE HELEXSeptal Occluder</td>
<td>W.L. Gore &amp; Associates</td>
<td>Aug 2006 (discontinued)</td>
<td>Percutaneous, transcatheter closure of ostium secundum ASDs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GORE CARDIOFORM Septal Occluder</td>
<td>W.L. Gore &amp; Associates</td>
<td>Mar 2018 (supplement)</td>
<td>PFO closure to reduce the risk of recurrent ischemic stroke in patients, predominantly between the ages of 18 and 60 years, who have had a cryptogenic stroke due to a presumed paradoxical embolism, as determined by a neurologist and cardiologist following an evaluation to exclude known causes of ischemic stroke</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PFO: patent foramen ovale; PMA: premarket approval. FDA product code: MLV.
Atrial Septal Defect (ASD) Closure Devices

The FDA has approved three devices for ASD closure through the premarket approval process or a premarket approval supplement: the Amplatzer Septal Occluder, the GORE HELEX Septal Occluder (discontinued), and the GORE CARDIOFORM Septal Occluder (see Table 4) (FDA product code: MLV).

Table 4. Atrial Septal Defect Closure Devices Approved by the Food and Drug Administration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Device</th>
<th>Manufacturer</th>
<th>PMA Approval Date</th>
<th>Indications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amplatzer™ Septal Occluder</td>
<td>St. Jude Medical (Abbot Medical)</td>
<td>Dec 2001</td>
<td>Occlusion of ASDs in the secundum position</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Use in patients who have had a fenestrated Fontan procedure who require closure of the fenestration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Patients indicated for ASD closure have echocardiographic evidence of ostium secundum ASD and clinical evidence of right ventricular volume overload</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GORE HELEX Septal Occluder</td>
<td>W.L. Gore &amp; Associates (discontinued)</td>
<td>Aug 2006</td>
<td>Percutaneous, transcatheter closure of ostium secundum ASDs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GORE CARDIOFORM ASD Occluder (formerly GORE CARDIOFORM Septal Occluder)</td>
<td>W.L. Gore &amp; Associates (supplement; name change)</td>
<td>May 2019 (supplement) Oct 2016 (supplement)</td>
<td>Percutaneous, transcatheter closure of ostium secundum ASDs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ASD: atrial septal defect; PMA: premarket approval.

References


---

**History**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09/07/99</td>
<td>Add to Medicine Section - New Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/18/01</td>
<td>Replace policy - New information on patent foramen ovale; rest unchanged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/12/02</td>
<td>Replace policy - Revised; added requirements to policy statement patients with PFO must fail trial of oral anticoagulants. Noted FDA approval of Amplatzer device. Policy replaces 2.02.09.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/13/02</td>
<td>Replace policy - Policy statement revised to indicate transcatheter treatment of ASD may be considered medically necessary. Replaces P2.02.100.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/13/03</td>
<td>Replace policy - Policy reviewed; no change to policy statement; CPT codes updated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/26/06</td>
<td>Update Scope and Disclaimer - No other changes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/11/08</td>
<td>Cross Reference Update - No other changes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/14/08</td>
<td>Cross Reference Update - No other changes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/10/09</td>
<td>Replace policy - Policy updated with literature search; policy rationale extensively revised. Policy statement for PFO changed to investigational due to the FDA’s withdrawal of the humanitarian device exemption approval. References added.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/08/10</td>
<td>Replace policy - Policy updated with literature search; no change to the policy statement. References added.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/11/11</td>
<td>Replace policy – Policy updated with literature search. Policy statements unchanged. References 5, 8, 15 and 25 added. ICD-10 codes added to policy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/27/12</td>
<td>Replace policy - Policy updated with literature search. References 3, 6, 7, and 30 added. No change to policy statement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/20/14</td>
<td>Annual Review. Policy updated with literature review through August 1, 2014. References 8-17, 21, 26, 33-37, 40, 48, 53-55, 58-59 added. Policy statement unchanged. ICD-9 and ICD-10 diagnosis codes removed; these are not utilized in adjudication of the policy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/09/15</td>
<td>Coding update: Correct ICD-10-PCS codes to support remediation efforts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/01/16</td>
<td>Annual Review, approved June 14, 2016. Policy statements unchanged. Clinical input received from physician specialty societies and academic medical centers added. No new literature added.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/01/17</td>
<td>Interim review, approved December 13, 2016. Changed policy statement from investigational to medically necessary for closure of PFO in the presence of cryptogenic stroke due to paradoxical embolism using a PFO occluder device (Amplatzer PFO) when criteria are met. Updated Regulatory Status with information about the Amplatzer device for PFO. Policy updated with literature review through October 2016.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/01/17</td>
<td>Annual Review, approved June 22, 2017. Policy moved into new format. Policy updated with literature review through March 23, 2017; references 3, 6-7, 9-10, 48-49, 51-52, 64, and 78 added. Statement, “There are currently no transcatheter devices with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration [FDA] approval or clearance for this indication,” removed from investigational statement for PFO closure devices; policy statements otherwise unchanged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/01/18</td>
<td>Annual Review, approved July 10, 2018. Policy updated with literature review through March 2018; references 9-11, 14-15, and 17 added. Policy statement changed to: The percutaneous transcatheter closure of a patent foramen ovale using AMPLATZER PFO Occluder may be considered medically necessary to reduce the risk of recurrent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/10/18</td>
<td>ischemic stroke if patient meets all of the specified criteria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/01/19</td>
<td>Minor update, added Documentation Requirements section.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/01/19</td>
<td>Corrected errors in the description of the heart anatomy discussed under Background, Patent Foramen Ovale on page 5.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/01/19</td>
<td>Annual Review, approved July 25, 2019. Policy updated with literature review through March 2019; references added. Added new FDA approved patent foramen ovale closure device: Gore Cardioform Septal Occluder. An investigational statement was added for situations not meeting criteria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/01/20</td>
<td>Delete policy, approved March 10, 2020. This policy will be deleted effective July 2, 2020, and replaced with InterQual criteria for dates of service on or after July 2, 2020.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/06/20</td>
<td>Interim Review, approved May 5, 2020. This policy is reinstated immediately and will no longer be deleted or replaced with InterQual criteria on July 2, 2020.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Disclaimer**: This medical policy is a guide in evaluating the medical necessity of a particular service or treatment. The Company adopts policies after careful review of published peer-reviewed scientific literature, national guidelines and local standards of practice. Since medical technology is constantly changing, the Company reserves the right to review and update policies as appropriate. Member contracts differ in their benefits. Always consult the member benefit booklet or contact a member service representative to determine coverage for a specific medical service or supply. CPT codes, descriptions and materials are copyrighted by the American Medical Association (AMA). ©2020 Premera All Rights Reserved.

**Scope**: Medical policies are systematically developed guidelines that serve as a resource for Company staff when determining coverage for specific medical procedures, drugs or devices. Coverage for medical services is subject to the limits and conditions of the member benefit plan. Members and their providers should consult the member benefit booklet or contact a customer service representative to determine whether there are any benefit limitations applicable to this service or supply. This medical policy does not apply to Medicare Advantage.
Discrimination is Against the Law

Premera Blue Cross complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. Premera does not exclude people or treat them differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex.

Premera:
- Provides free aids and services to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us, such as:
  - Qualified sign language interpreters
  - Written information in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, other formats)
- Provides free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as:
  - Qualified interpreters
  - Information written in other languages

If you need these services, contact the Civil Rights Coordinator.

If you believe that Premera has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex, you can file a grievance with:
Civil Rights Coordinator - Complaints and Appeals
PO Box 91102, Seattle, WA 98111
Toll free 855-332-4535, Fax 425-918-5592. TTY 800-842-5357
Email AppealsDepartmentInquiries@Premera.com

You can file a grievance in person or by mail, fax, or email. If you need help filing a grievance, the Civil Rights Coordinator is available to help you.

You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf, or by mail or phone at:
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW, Room S09F, HHH Building
Washington, D.C. 20201, 1-800-368-1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD)

Getting Help in Other Languages

This Notice has Important Information. This notice may have important information about your application or coverage through Premera Blue Cross. There may be key dates in this notice. You may need to take action by certain deadlines to keep your health coverage or help with costs. You have the right to get this information and help in your language at no cost.

Call 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357).

Arabic (Arabic):
لا يوجد هذا الإشعار معلومات هامة، قد يوجد هذا الإشعار معلومات هامة بخصوص تلك أو تلك. هذه المعلومات التي يتم الحصول عليها من خلال برنامج Premera Blue Cross هذه المعلومات يمكن أن تكون معلومات هامة. تطلب منك هذه المعلومات في هذا الإشعار، وتجد أن إذا لم ترتفع إلى تجربة عامة تتعلق على تكنولوجيا الصحة أو السعادة في دفع الكلفة. يحق لك الحصول على هذه المعلومات والمساعدة بذلك دون تكلفة إضافية. تصل
800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357) للمزيد من المعلومات.

Chinese (Chinese):
本通知有重要的訊息。本通知可能有關於透過 Premera Blue Cross 提交的申請或保障的重要訊息。本通知可能有重要的日期，您必須要在此日期之前採取行動，以保留您的健保保險或費用補貼。您有權利免費以您的母語得到本訊息和幫助。請撥電話 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357)。

Oromoo (Cushite):

Français (French):

Kreyòl ayisyen (Creole):

Deutsche (German):

Hmoob (Hmong):

Ilokano (Ilocano):
Daytoy a Pakdaar ket naglaon iti Napatge nga Impormasyon. Daytoy a pakdaar mabalina nga adda ket naglaon iti napatge nga impormasyon maipanggep iti aplikasyonyny wong coverage baben ti Premera Blue Cross. Daytoy ket mabalina dagiti importante a pelta iti daytoy a pakdaar. Mabalina nga adda rumbeng nga aramidne ya nga addang saksi dagiti particularg a naituding nga aldaw tapno mapagtalaineyo ti coverage ti salun-atyo yenno tungol kadagit gastos. Adda karbenganyo a mangala iti daytoy nga impormasyon ken tungol iti bukudyo a pagasasoa nga awan ti bayadangyo. Tumawag ti numero nga 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357).

Italiano (Italian):
Este aviso contiene información importante. Es posible que este aviso contenga información importante acerca de su solicitud o cobertura a través de Premera Blue Cross. Es posible que haya fechas claves en este aviso. Es posible que deba tomar algunas medidas antes de determinadas fechas para mantener su cobertura médica o ayuda con los costos. Usted tiene derecho a recibir esta información y ayuda en su idioma sin costo alguno. Llame al 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357).

Tagalog (Tagalog):

ไทย (Thai):
ประกาศนี้มีข้อสำคัญ ประกาศนี้มีข้อสำคัญเกี่ยวกับการติดตามหรือข้อตกลงเกี่ยวกับสิทธิของคุณ Premera Blue Cross และเงื่อนไขในการรับบริการในประเทศไทย คุณควรตรวจสอบ ด้านข้อมูลในกำหนดเวลาที่มีเนื้อหาเพื่อทราบการประกันสุขภาพของคุณที่มีอยู่ คุณมีสิทธิที่จะได้รับข้อมูลและการช่วยเหลือในการป้องกันโรค โปรดติดต่อ โทร 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357).

Український (Ukrainian):
Це повідомлення містить важливу інформацію. Це повідомлення може містити важливу інформацію про Ваше звернення щодо страхувального покриття через Premera Blue Cross. Зверніть увагу на ключові дати, які можуть бути вказані у цьому повідомленні. Існує можливість того, що Вам треба буде здійснити деякі кроки у конкретні кінцеві строки для того, щоб зберегти Ваше медичне страхування або отримати фінансову допомогу. У Вас є право на отримання цієї інформації та допомоги безкоштовно на Вашій рідній мові. Дозвоніться за номером телефону 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357).

Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese):

Polskie (Polish):
To ogłoszenie może zawierać ważne informacje. To ogłoszenie może zawierać ważne informacje odnośnie Państwa wniosku lub zakresu świadczeń poprzez Premera Blue Cross. Prosimy zwrócić uwagę na kluczowe daty, które mogą być zawarte w tym ogłoszeniu aby nie przekroczyć terminów w przypadku utraty pożytecznej informacji lub pomocy związanej z kosztem. Masz prawo do bezpłatnej informacji we własnym języku. Zadbawicie pod 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357).

Português (Portuguese):
Este aviso contém informações importantes. Este aviso poderá conter informações importantes a respeito de sua aplicação ou cobertura por meio do Premera Blue Cross. Poderão existir dados importantes neste aviso. Talvez seja necessário que você tome providências dentro de determinados prazos para manter sua cobertura de saúde ou ajuda de custos. Você tem o direito de obter esta informação e ajuda em seu idioma e sem custos. Ligue para 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357).