

**Title:** Percutaneous Transluminal Angioplasty (PTA) of the Carotid Artery Concurrent with Stenting (CAG-00085R8)

**Decision:** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is making changes to their existing National Coverage Determination (NCD) for Percutaneous Transluminal Angioplasty (PTA) (20.7). CMS revised Medicare coverage for PTA of the carotid artery concurrent with stenting by:

1. Expanding coverage to individuals previously only eligible for coverage in clinical trials;
2. Expanding coverage to standard surgical risk individuals by removing the limitation of coverage to only high surgical risk individuals;
3. Removing the facility approval requirement;
4. Adding formal shared decision-making with the individual prior to furnishing carotid artery stenting (CAS); and
5. Allowing Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) discretion for all other coverage of PTA of the carotid artery concurrent with stenting not otherwise addressed in NCD 20.7.

CMS finds that coverage of PTA of the carotid artery concurrent with stenting is reasonable and necessary with the placement of an FDA-approved carotid stent with an FDA-approved or cleared embolic protection device, for Medicare beneficiaries under the following conditions:

- A. Patients with symptomatic carotid artery stenosis  $\geq 50\%$ ; and
- B. Patients with asymptomatic carotid artery stenosis  $\geq 70\%$ .

For both A and B:

- Neurological assessment by a neurologist or NIH stroke scale (NIHSS) certified health professional before and after CAS must be performed.

HealthPartners is a health plan that contracts with both Medicare and the Minnesota Medical Assistance (Medicaid) program to provide benefits of both programs to enrollees. HealthPartners is also a Cost plan and PPO plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in HealthPartners depends on contract renewal. HealthPartners UnityPoint Health is a PPO plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in HealthPartners UnityPoint Health depends on contract renewal.

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- Prior to furnishing CAS, the practitioner must engage in a formal shared decision-making interaction with the beneficiary.
- Facilities must establish and maintain institutional and physician standards to support a dedicated carotid stent program.

**What this means:** PTA of the carotid artery with stenting continues to be covered for individuals in clinical trials. It is now also covered outside of clinical trials for standard surgical risk individuals who meet the criteria outlined in NCD 20.7. HealthPartners has the discretion to determine reasonable and necessary coverage of PTA with stenting outside of clinical trials for conditions not addressed by the NCD. Please refer to the final decision memo for all coverage criteria.

**Effective: October 11, 2023**

This announcement can be found at: [Percutaneous Transluminal Angioplasty \(PTA\) of the Carotid Artery Concurrent with Stenting \(CAG-00085R8\)](#)

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