



**BlueCross BlueShield
of Illinois**

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois Provider Manual

HMO Scope of Benefits Section

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois, a Division of Health Care Service Corporation, a Mutual Legal Reserve Company,
an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

Automatic Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (AICD)

Benefit

Automatic implantable defibrillators are in benefit.

Interpretation

The Automatic Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (AICD) is an electronic device designed to monitor a member's heartbeat, recognize ventricular fibrillation (VF) or ventricular tachycardia (VT), and deliver an electronic shock to terminate the life-threatening arrhythmia. The device consists of a pulse generator and two surgically-implanted sensing electrodes. One of the electrodes is placed in the superior vena cava and the other is placed on the heart over the cardiac apex. The pulse generator is placed in a subcutaneous pocket, normally in the abdominal area.

An automatic implantable defibrillator is in benefit for treatment of ventricular fibrillation or ventricular tachycardia. Typically, the criteria include:

- There is documentation of an episode of symptomatic VF or VT.
- The episode of VF or VT has not occurred during an evolving myocardial infarction.
- The member should have a life expectancy of at least 6 months.
- Members should have adequate psychological resources to be able to comply with post-operative long-term follow-up.

Paid by	Equipment Charges	HMO
	Inpatient and/or Outpatient Surgical Facility charges	HMO
	Professional Charges	IPA