How Do I Determine If My Cardiac or Spine Procedure Is Covered?

Thank you for considering the Walmart Centers of Excellence program for your cardiac or spine care. Below are examples to help you identify the difference between **diagnostic** and **treatment procedures**. These terms are very important when trying to determine what procedures are covered under the Walmart Centers of Excellence program. Carefully review the examples and questions immediately following to learn more about how procedures may be categorized. For additional information, please call Health Design Plus at 1-877-230-7037.

### CARDIAC

1. **Stan’s doctor told him he needs a cardiac catheterization. Is this procedure covered under the program?**
   In this example, the cardiac catheterization is a procedure used to **diagnose** a condition that may need to be treated. Diagnostic procedures are not covered under the program. Once Stan receives a diagnosis from his physician, the procedure to fix the medical problem can then be considered. In this example, the cardiac catheterization is not a covered procedure.

2. **Maria had a cardiac catheterization a month ago. Her doctor told her as a result of the cardiac catheterization, she needs a cardiac valve repaired. Is this procedure covered under the program?**
   In this example, Maria’s cardiac valve repair would possibly be covered under the program because it is a procedure used to **treat** a condition that was recently diagnosed. Maria should call Health Design Plus for evaluation and possible referral to the Centers of Excellence hospital.

### SPINE

1. **Raúl has had symptoms related to his back. His primary care physician examined him during an office visit. His physician recommended getting an MRI test. Is this procedure covered under the program?**
   In this example, an MRI is a test used to assist in diagnosing a condition that may need to be treated. Diagnostic procedures are not covered under the program. Once Raúl receives a diagnosis from his physician, the procedure to treat the medical problem can then be considered. In this example, the MRI is not a covered procedure.

2. **Su Linn had tests performed on her back a few weeks ago. Her physician recommended possible spine surgery. Is this procedure covered under the program?**
   In this example, Su Linn’s spine surgery would possibly be covered under the program because it is a procedure used to **treat** a condition that was recently diagnosed. Su Linn should call Health Design Plus for evaluation and possible referral to the Centers of Excellence hospital.
Questions That Help You Determine If Your Cardiac or Spine Procedure is Covered

Now that you understand the difference between what is and is not covered for cardiac and spine procedures, consider the following questions. If you answer no, or do not have an answer to one or more of these questions, you may not be eligible for the program at this time. If you answer yes to all of the questions below, please call Health Design Plus at 1-877-230-7037 and begin your Walmart Centers of Excellence evaluation.

*Please note: To ensure you receive the appropriate care, the hospital will complete a clinical review of your medical records prior to acceptance.*

**CARDIAC**

To determine if a *cardiac* procedure is covered, answer these questions:

1. **Do I have a cardiac condition?**
   
   *This special program is for cardiac patients only.*
   
   ❑ Yes ❑ No

2. **Have I been seen by a physician in the last few months for a cardiac condition?**
   
   *If you were seen more than a few months ago, you may need to be seen by your physician again. If you have not been seen, you may need to schedule an appointment with your physician prior to applying for this program.*
   
   ❑ Yes ❑ No

3. **Has my physician completed the diagnostic tests to confirm my condition?**
   
   *In order to apply for this program, your physician needs to have confirmed a diagnosis of your condition.*
   
   ❑ Yes ❑ No

4. **Has my physician recommended a procedure for my diagnosis?**
   
   *Based on your diagnosis, please have your physician’s recommendation for treatment upon enrollment into this program. Be prepared to request medical records supporting the plan of treatment and have them submitted to the hospital.*
   
   ❑ Yes ❑ No

5. **Is my procedure considered non-emergent or non-urgent by my physician?**
   
   *This program is for non-emergent or non-urgent procedures only.*
   
   ❑ Yes ❑ No
To determine if a spine procedure is covered, answer these questions:

1. Do I have a neck or back problem?
   This special program is for spine patients only.
   □ Yes □ No

2. Has my physician recommended a procedure for my diagnosis?
   Based on your treatment plan, please have your physician’s recommendation for treatment upon enrollment into the program. Be prepared to request medical records supporting the plan of treatment and have them submitted to the hospital.
   □ Yes □ No

3. Is my procedure considered non-emergent or non-urgent by my physician?
   This program is for non-emergent or non-urgent procedures only.
   □ Yes □ No

4. Has my physician advised that I am safe for travel?
   This program is for patients that are safe to travel.
   □ Yes □ No
Sample Procedures Covered

Below is a table of procedures covered and not covered under the Walmart Centers of Excellence program. Use it to help you quickly determine if you are eligible. If your procedure is on the covered list or is not listed at all, please call Health Design Plus at 1-877-230-7037 for more information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedures Covered</th>
<th>Procedures Not Covered</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Aneurysm Repair – Thoracic and Aortic</td>
<td>• Ablation and Cardioversion (for Cardiac Arrhythmias)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Closures of Heart Defects</td>
<td>• Diagnostic Procedures such as Cardiac Catheterization</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Heart Valve Replacement/Repair</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Open Heart Surgery for Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting (CABG)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Other Inpatient Complex Cardiac Surgeries</td>
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<td><strong>Cardiac</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Spine</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Spinal Fusion (Cervical and Lumbar)</td>
<td>• Laminectomy</td>
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<td>• Total Disk Arthroplasty (Artificial Disk)</td>
<td>• Diskectomy</td>
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<td>• Removal Vertebral Body</td>
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<td>• Spine Surgery Revisions</td>
<td>• Vertebroplasty</td>
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