

# Minimally Invasive Surgical Hybrid Ablation Procedures

## PRE-AUTHORIZATION AND DENIALS CHECKLIST

### PRE-AUTHORIZATION CHECKLIST

#### Step One; Verify Benefits:

- Verify patient's insurance, in network/ out-of-network benefits
- Check patient's benefit plan for referral requirements or shared decision-making
- Ensure patient meets coverage criteria and or FDA labeling indications
- Verify if payer has place of service restrictions (e.g., inpatient, outpatient)

#### Step Two; Submit Both Procedure Codes:

Endoscopy, surgical; operative tissue ablation and reconstruction of atria (e.g., Maze procedure): without cardiopulmonary bypass

- 33265 – limited
- 33266 – extensive

#### Step Three; Initial Request and Supporting Documentation:

- Check payer's website for electronic pre-authorization requirements and forms
- Recommend submitting a letter of medical necessity to include: (templates available upon request)
  - describe the procedure
  - medications used to manage the patients' atrial fibrillation
  - all previous treatments provided (e.g., catheter ablation) for atrial fibrillation
  - why procedure is necessary, notes from both the electrophysiologist and surgeon
  - do not use modifier 76

### DENIAL CHECKLIST

#### Level 1 Appeal

- Check payer's website for electronic appeal forms and process
- Include the following information with your appeal:
  - copy of the denial letter
  - letter of medical necessity – include all information listed in step three of the pre-authorization checklist
  - peer-reviewed clinical literature

#### Level 2 Appeal

- Check payer's website for appeal denial process
- Request an external medical review
- Include all documentation and information detailed above

#### Level 3 and 4 Appeal

- Check payer's website for escalating an appeal for a denied pre-authorization request
- Request an external medical review
- Notify patient and have him/her submit appeal and have patient contact their benefit administrator for assistance

#### Exhausted All Appeals

- Contact your local State Insurance Commissioner office; it may be possible to escalate appeal with their assistance

**Reimbursement Assistance**  
Pre-Authorizations, Appeals, or Templates  
Contact Julie Garfield  
(303) 845-2027 (phone or text)  
JGarfield@InSearch-Solutions.com