Aetna Institutes of Quality Cardiac Surgery
Summary of criteria
Facility requirements for consideration

We may choose facilities for our Institutes of Quality Cardiac Surgery network that meet our requirements for quality, value and access. The evaluation for cardiac surgery includes coronary artery bypass surgery (CABG) and atrial valve replacement (AVR). It’s based on the facility’s publicly available data and other data, including our own. The Cardiac Surgery Institutes of Quality network applies to Aetna® members ages 18 and over.

We may select a facility to participate in the network if it meets certain measures of:
- Clinical quality
- Contract requirements
- Cost efficiency
- Access for cardiac surgery services

**Designation process**
The current three-year review cycle is 2021–2023. A new three-year review cycle will start in 2024.

The quality review process takes place in year one between January and May. We can’t accept or review quality review data after this time period. Final designations are done in the fourth quarter. This closes the review process until the start of the next three-year review cycle. The designation is valid for three years. It’s also dependent on ongoing compliance with the program requirements.

We follow these steps for designation:
1. We review the facility’s publicly reported data to determine clinical eligibility. If the facility does not meet all applicable clinical criteria, it’s not eligible for designation. We evaluate no further.
2. If the facility meets all applicable clinical criteria, we determine if the facility meets contract, cost efficiency and network access criteria. If the facility meets all these requirements, we’ll designate it into the network.
3. We’ll let the facility know if it’s designated into the network.
4. We’ll list the designated facility in our online provider directory.

You can send any questions to aetnacardiaciq-national@aetna.com.

**Data management**
To maintain designation, the facility must comply with Institutes of Quality program requirements. Programs must be able to collect, analyze and report data. And they must submit updated information upon request.

**Program requirements**
To be considered for designation, facilities must meet program requirements listed below.

**Cardiac Surgery program business requirements**
1. The facility and the surgeons must be credentialed by Aetna. They must participate in our provider network for all benefit plans and products available in their geographic area.
2. The inpatient facility must report CABG and AVR data to the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) and make that data public in the STS National Adult Cardiac Surgery Database.

**Cardiac Surgery program clinical requirements**
A facility is eligible for Institutes of Quality Cardiac Surgery designation by meeting one or more of the following:

1. The facility has a CABG STS Star Rating of 2 or 3 with Absence of Operative Mortality and Absence of Major Morbidity and Use of Internal Mammary Artery scores of 2 or 3. And an AVR STS Star Rating of 2 or 3 with Absence of Operative Mortality and Absence of Major Morbidity scores of 2 or 3.
2. The facility has a current Comprehensive Cardiac Center Certification with The Joint Commission and a CABG STS Star Rating of 3.
3. The facility has a current Institutes of Excellence Adult Heart Transplant designation and a CABG STS Star Rating of 3.

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