

# Extracranial-Intracranial (EC-IC) Arterial Bypass Surgery

Policy Number: MCS035.02  
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Related Policies
None

## Coverage Guidelines

Extracranial-intracranial (EC-IC) arterial bypass surgery is not a covered procedure.

Extracranial-intracranial (EC-IC) arterial bypass surgery is not covered for the treatment of ischemic cerebrovascular disease of carotid or middle cerebral arteries, which includes the treatment or prevention of stroke. The premise that extracranial-intracranial (EC-IC) arterial bypass surgery which bypasses narrowed arterial segments improves the blood supply to the brain and reduces the risk of having a stroke has not been demonstrated to be any more effective than no surgical intervention. Refer to the [NCD for Extracranial-Intracranial \(EC-IC\) Arterial Bypass Surgery \(20.2\)](#). (Accessed June 23, 2021)

## Policy History/Revision Information

Date	Summary of Changes
07/20/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Routine review; no change to coverage guidelines</li> <li>Archived previous policy version MCS035.01</li> </ul>

## Instructions for Use

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The benefit information in this Coverage Summary is based on existing national coverage policy; however, Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs) may exist and compliance with these policies are required where applicable.

There are instances where this document may direct readers to a UnitedHealthcare Commercial Medical Policy, Medical Benefit Drug Policy, and/or Coverage Determination Guideline (CDG). In the absence of a Medicare National Coverage Determination (NCD), Local Coverage Determination (LCD), or other Medicare coverage guidance, CMS allows a Medicare Advantage Organization (MAO) to create its own coverage determinations, using objective evidence-based rationale relying on authoritative evidence ([Medicare IOM Pub. No. 100-16, Ch. 4, §90.5](#)).

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