

Related Change Request (CR) #: 3068

MLN Matters Number: MM3068

Related CR Release Date: January 16, 2004

Related CR Transmittal #: R64CP

Effective Date: October 1, 2003

Implementation Date: February 16, 2004

## *Coding Change for Ventricular Assist Devices (VADs) for Beneficiaries in a Medicare+Choice (M+C) Plan*

**Note:** This article was updated on April 22, 2013, to reflect current Web addresses. All other information remains unchanged.

### Provider Types Affected

Provider billing carriers – excludes DMERC.

### Provider Action Needed

Medicare + Choice providers must use a different CPT code, effective October 1, 2003 for services related to the implantation of a ventricular assist device in order to be paid as fee for services under Medicare.

### Provider Action Needed



#### **STOP – Impact to You**

CPT codes 33975 and 33976 that previously referred to services related to the implantation of a ventricular assist device are no longer correct.



#### **CAUTION – What You Need to Know**

The new CPT code that correctly describes services related to the implantation of a ventricular assist device is **33979**. It replaces CPT codes 33975 and 33976 from CR 2958.



#### **GO – What You Need to Do**

This code must be used to receive reimbursement when providing services related to the implantation of a ventricular assist device in beneficiaries who are part of a Medicare + Choice Plan. Please use this new code and inform your staff about this change so you may be paid by the Medicare carrier under fee-for-service.

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## Background

The previous CPT code found in CR 2958, dated October 17, 2003, is incorrect and has been changed to CPT 33979. All other information within CR 2958 is accurate and remains the same.

## Additional Information

For more information regarding services related to the implantation of a ventricular assist device for the expanded indication, please refer to Pub. 100-03, Medicare National Coverage Determination (NCD) Manual, Section 20.9.

The official instruction issued to your carrier regarding this change may be found at <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R64CP.pdf> the CMS website.

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