

## Additional Comments on Codes

### **35.00, 35.01, 35.02, and 35.04, Closed Heart Valvotomies**

The Maryland Cardiac Surgery Quality Initiative (MCSQI) recommends that these procedures not be defined as cardiac surgery, but be limited to hospitals with cardiac surgery programs.

### **35.05 Endovascular Replacement of Aortic Valve**

MedStar recommends that this procedure should not count towards volume because while it is performed by cardiac surgeons in some institutions, it is more frequently performed by interventional cardiologist when done via the percutaneous femoral route, and most importantly the skill set required of both the physician and ancillary staff is entirely different from that required in the cardiac operating room. As a surrogate for experience and quality in the performance of operative cardiac surgery, TAVR volume is of limited relevance. MedStar fully agrees that it should only be performed in institutions that have a cardiac surgery program.

### **35.07 Endovascular Replacement of Pulmonary Valve**

MCSQI recommends that this procedure not be defined as cardiac surgery, but be limited to hospitals with cardiac surgery programs.

### **35.09 Endovascular Replacement of Unspecified Heart Valve**

MCSQI recommends excluding this procedure from the definition of cardiac surgery only when performed percutaneously, and MedStar agrees with this recommendation. MCSQI recommends only transapical procedures be included in the definition of cardiac surgery, and MedStar agrees with this recommendation.

Western Maryland Health System (WMHS) noted that only transapical procedures performed should count towards volume requirements and not procedures performed percutaneously.

### **35.52 Repair of Atrial Septal Defect with Prosthesis, Closed Technique**

MCSQI recommends that this procedure not be defined as cardiac surgery, but be limited to hospitals with cardiac surgery programs.

### **35.96 Percutaneous Balloon Valvuloplasty**

MCSQI recommends that this procedure not be defined as cardiac surgery, but be limited to hospitals with cardiac surgery programs.

### **35.97 Percutaneous Mitral Valve Repair with Implant**

MCSQI recommends that this procedure not be defined as cardiac surgery, but be limited to hospitals with cardiac surgery programs.

### **36.32 Other Transmyocardial Revascularization**

MCSQI recommends that this procedure not be defined as cardiac surgery, but be limited to hospitals with cardiac surgery programs.

### **37.25 Biopsy of Heart**

WMHS recommends that this code not be quantified in the overall cardiac surgery volumes. The majority of these procedures are performed with a closed procedure. Since ICD-9 codes do not distinguish between open and closed cases, counting this procedure would falsely inflate cardiac surgery volumes. WMHS does not recommend biopsy of the heart should be performed at a cardiac surgery facility.

### **37.51 Heart Transplantation**

WMHS recommends that this not be quantified in the overall cardiac surgery volumes. Organ transplant services and volumes are regulated separately from cardiac surgery and are not part of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) database or outcomes. With only two medical centers in Maryland performing heart transplantation, counting this procedure would falsely inflate surgical volumes.

### **37.68 Insertion of Perc External Heart Assist Device**

Washington Adventist Shady Grove Medical Center (SGMC) commented that this procedure can be safely performed in community hospitals, by qualified physicians, and that by designating this procedure as “cardiac surgery” the MHCC may be inadvertently placing administrative restrictions on practitioners that do not meet the recognized community standard.

### **38.05 Incision of Vessel, Other Thoracic Vessels.**

MCSQI recommends including this procedure as cardiac surgery, if performed in conjunction with code 39.61.

### **37.93 Injection of Therapeutic Substance into Pericardium**

MCSQI recommends that this procedure not be defined as cardiac surgery, but be limited to hospitals with cardiac surgery programs.

### **38.15 Endarterectomy, Other Thoracic Vessels**

MCSQI recommends including this procedure as cardiac surgery, if performed in conjunction with code 39.61.

### **38.35 Resection of Vessel with Anastomosis, Other Thoracic Vessels**

MCSQI recommends including this procedure as cardiac surgery, if performed in conjunction with code 39.61.

### **38.45 Resection of Vessel with Replacement, Thoracic vessels**

MCSQI recommends including this procedure as cardiac surgery, if performed in conjunction with code 39.61.

### **38.65 Other Excision of Vessels, Thoracic Vessels**

MCSQI recommends including this procedure as cardiac surgery, if performed in conjunction with code 39.61.