**SAMPLE APPEAL TEMPLATE**

Remote Monitoring of CardioMEMS™ HF System

**The following template is a sample appeal letter.**

1. Customizations should be based on the medical appropriateness of the CardioMEMS™ HF System for the patient. Fields for customization include, but may not be limited to, those **highlighted in yellow**.
2. It is important to provide the most complete information to assist with the appeal of a prior authorization denial.
3. Highlighted text should be deleted prior to the submission of this letter to any health plan, so the health plan does not misinterpret the information.

Do not include this instruction page in your submission.

**Important Safety Information**

**CardioMEMS™ HF System**

**Brief Summary:**Prior to using these devices, please review the Instructions for Use for a complete listing of indications, contraindications, warnings, precautions, potential adverse events and directions for use.

**CardioMEMS™ HF System Indications and Usage:** The CardioMEMS HF System is indicated for wirelessly measuring and monitoring pulmonary artery pressure and heart rate in NYHA Class II or III heart failure patients who either have been hospitalized for heart failure in the previous year and/or have elevated natriuretic peptides. The hemodynamic data are used by physicians for heart failure management with the goal of controlling pulmonary artery pressures and reducing heart failure hospitalizations.

**CardioMEMS HF System Contraindications:**The CardioMEMS HF System is contraindicated for patients with an inability to take dual antiplatelet or anticoagulants for one month post implant.

**CardioMEMS HF System Adverse Events:** Potential adverse events associated with the implantation procedure include, but are not limited to, the following: air embolism, allergic reaction, infection, delayed wound healing, arrhythmias, bleeding, hemoptysis, hematoma, nausea, cerebrovascular accident, thrombus, cardiovascular injury, myocardial infarction, death, embolization, thermal burn, cardiac perforation, pneumothorax, thoracic duct injury and hemothorax.

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[Physician Letterhead]

[Date]

Attention: Appeals Department

Reference number: [ ]

[Payer Name]

[Street address]

[City, State, zip code]

[Fax]

**Re: Expedited Appeal of Denial for Coverage of remote monitoring (CPT‡ code 93264) of the CardioMEMS™ HF System**

Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Policy Holder Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Patient ID #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Policy, Group, or Claim # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Diagnosis**: [**list ICD10 DX code and diagnosis code descriptor**]

[Please note, this is for illustrative purposes. Please customize as medically necessary and relevant.]

Dear [Payer contact name]:

I am writing to you on behalf of my patient, [name]to request a reconsideration of the denial of the **remote monitoring services to support the** **CardioMEMS HF System** to monitor and manage chronic heart failure.

My patient was implanted with the CardioMEMS HF System on [date] to manage and treat [his/her] chronic heart failure symptoms. Based on medical necessity of this therapy, [payer name] approved the procedure 33289 which includes implantation of the CardioMEMS**™** Pulmonary Artery (PA) Sensor. Unlike other traditional medical devices implanted, the CardioMEMS PA Sensor has the diagnostic capability that provides real-time acquisition of patients’ pulmonary pressures for providers to proactively treat and make clinical decisions that impact their heart failure status. The CardioMEMS HF System requires remote monitoring (CPT‡ code 93264) to complete the ‘system’. The clinical value of the CardioMEMS HF System is to remotely monitor chronic heart failure patients to avoid decompensation resulting in hospitalization. The CardioMEMS PA Sensor requires remote monitoring (CPT‡ code 93264) to provide the real-time acquisition of patients’ pulmonary pressures to help proactively manage my patient’s heart failure. If I am unable to provide this critical service after the implant, then my patient derives no clinical benefit from this technology.

I am requesting reconsideration of the denial for CPT‡ code 93264. As part of the ongoing compliance of this therapy, patients will need to transmit their pulmonary artery (PA) pressures to clinicians for weekly review which is a requirement of this therapy. As a result, clinicians will submit claims every 30 days to support the remote monitoring of patients’ pulmonary artery pressures to support the clinical management of patients with chronic heart failure.

Remote monitoring of cardiovascular implantable devices such as implantable defibrillators, pacemakers, loop recorders, and implantable cardiovascular physiologic monitoring systems have demonstrated a long-standing proven clinical benefit. CPT‡ code 93264 is a remote monitoring code (effective January 1, 2019) for pulmonary artery pressure sensors that falls within the existing category of implantable cardiovascular monitors. The American Medical Association (AMA) approved CPT‡ code 93264 specifically based on the clinical evidence that the CardioMEMS HF System technology should be considered as part of mainstream clinical practice because of the clinical benefit derived from remote monitoring. Remote monitoring provides a safe and effective means for my patient to be managed real-time and promotes the growing acceptance and utilization to telemedicine services that have been supported by the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and most commercial payers. It should not be treated as investigational and experimental especially since the CardioMEMS HF System was approved by the FDA in May 2014[[1]](#footnote-2) and received an expanded indication in February 2022[[2]](#footnote-3). Additionally, CardioMEMS HF System has been issued an NCD by CMS.3 The CardioMEMS HF System is medically necessary and remote monitoring is required as part of the ongoing management for chronic heart failure.

**I am requesting an expedited review.**

**Background**

Heart failure (HF) is a chronic, progressive syndrome that is characterized by congestion, fluid retention, as well as inadequate cardiac output. Without proper management, HF worsens and develops into acute decompensated heart failure (ADHF), a condition associated with increased hospitalization and mortality rates. [Patient Name]’s HF requires active management in addition to monitoring traditional heart failure signs, symptoms and measures.

The CardioMEMS™ HF System is indicated for wirelessly measuring and monitoring pulmonary artery pressure and heart rate in NYHA Class II or III heart failure patients who either have been hospitalized for heart failure in the previous year and/or have elevated natriuretic peptides. The hemodynamic data are used by physicians for heart failure management with the goal of controlling pulmonary artery pressures and reducing heart failure hospitalizations. I believe the CardioMEMS HF System will allow us to more closely monitor [Patient Name]’s pulmonary pressures and volume status, which are early indicators that allow for actionable interventions with diuretics and other HF medications.

The CardioMEMS™ PA Sensor is permanently implanted into the PA using a safe, well-understood, standard, right heart catheterization and over-the-wire interventional procedure. Nitinol wire loops on both ends of the sensor hold the sensor in place in the PA. The sensor endothelializes in the PA.

Ongoing monitoring of PA pressure, used in conjunction with clinical signs and symptoms, can provide a rational basis for the selection of medication dosagesand can reduce HF hospitalizations and improve patient outcomes. Based on measures collected remotely via the patient home electronics unit, the CardioMEMS HF System automatically generates easy-to-read data reports for physicians. This gives physicians the ability to make time-sensitive and potentially critical treatment decisions for patients with moderate to advanced HF.

**I urge you to reconsider your denial of CPT‡ code 93624 (remote monitoring of pulmonary artery pressures), considering the ongoing medical necessity of this service. The primary objective of the CardioMEMS™ HF System technology is in remotely managing my patient’s chronic heart failure to prevent decompensation episodes that put my patient at significant risk. It is imperative that remote monitoring be covered as it is considered part of the ‘system’ and overall management of the patient which necessitated the approval of the implant.**

Please let me know if I can provide any additional information and thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

[Physician’s name and credentials]

[Title]

[Name of practice]

[Street address]

[City, State, zip code]

[Phone number]

**Enclosures: [Examples Below]**

[Patient trend report from Merlin.net™ PCN showing management of PA pressures]

1. U.S. Food and Drug Administration, P100045 CardioMEMS HF System (2014) [Premarket Approval (PMA) (fda.gov)](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfpma/pma.cfm?id=P100045) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. U.S. Food and Drug Administration, P100045/S056 CardioMEMS HF System (2022) [Premarket Approval (PMA) (fda.gov)](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfpma/pma.cfm?id=P100045S056)

3 NCA - [NCA - Implantable Pulmonary Artery Pressure Sensors for Heart Failure Management (CAG-00466N) - Decision Memo](https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/ncacal-decision-memo.aspx?proposed=N&ncaid=313) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)