**SAMPLE APPEAL LETTER CLAIMS DENIAL TEMPLATE**

To be considered for appeal by physicians for claims denial

**Instructions for completing the sample appeal letter:**

1. Please customize the appeal letter template based on the medical appropriateness. Text requiring customization is in **RED**.
2. After you have customized the letter, ***please make sure to delete this page and any specific instructions*** for completion, disclaimers, Abbott logos, caution statement, trademarks and document number that are seen throughout the letter.
3. For independent consideration and review, please make all changes that you believe appropriate or disregard these suggestions in their entirety. The healthcare provider is ultimately responsible for the accuracy and completeness of all claims submitted to third-party payers. Please see the FDA-approved label for information relevant to any prescribing decisions.

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This document and the information contained herein is for general information purposes only and is not intended, and does not constitute, legal reimbursement, business, clinical or other advice. Furthermore, it does not constitute a representation or guarantee of reimbursement, and it is not intended to increase or maximize payment by any payer. Nothing in this document should be construed as a guarantee by Abbott regarding reimbursement or payment amounts, or that reimbursement or other payment will be received. The ultimate responsibility for obtaining payment/reimbursement remains with the healthcare provider. This includes the responsibility for accuracy and veracity of all claims submitted to third-party payers. It is the sole responsibility of the prescribing healthcare provider to diagnose and treat the patient. Nothing in this document is intended to interfere with the independent clinical judgement of the prescribing healthcare provider. In addition, the healthcare provider should note that laws, regulations, and coverage policies are complex and are updated frequently, and, therefore, the provider should check with its local carriers or intermediaries often and should consult with legal counsel or a financial or reimbursement specialist for any questions related to billing, reimbursement or any related issue. This information does not guarantee coverage or payment at any specific level and Abbott does not advocate or warrant the appropriateness of the use of any particular code. This information is not provided or authorized for marketing use.

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| **Important Safety Information****AVEIR™ VR LEADLIESS PACEMAKER****Rx Only****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.**Indications**: The Aveir™ Leadless Pacemaker system is indicated for patients with significant bradycardia and: * Normal sinus rhythm with rare episodes of A-V block or sinus arrest
* Chronic atrial fibrillation
* Severe physical disability

Rate-Modulated Pacing is indicated for patients with chronotropic incompetence, and for those who would benefit from increased stimulation rates concurrent with physical activity.**Intended Use**: The Aveir™ Leadless Pacemaker (LP) is designed to provide bradycardia pacing as a pulse generator with built-in battery and electrodes for implantation in the right ventricle. The LP is intended to provide sensing of intrinsic cardiac signals and delivery of cardiac pacing therapy to the target patient population.The Aveir™ Delivery Catheter system is intended to be used in the peripheral vasculature and the cardiovascular system to deliver and manipulate an LP. Delivery and manipulation includes implanting an LP within the target chamber of the heart.**Contraindications**: Use of the Aveir™ Leadless Pacemaker is contraindicated in these cases: * Use of any pacemaker is contraindicated in patients with a co-implanted ICD because high-voltage shocks could damage the pacemaker and the pacemaker could reduce shock effectiveness.
* Single-chamber ventricular demand pacing is relatively contraindicated in patients who have demonstrated pacemaker syndrome, have retrograde VA conduction, or suffer a drop in atrial blood pressure with the onset of ventricular pacing.
 | * Programming of rate-responsive pacing is contraindicated in patients with intolerance of high sensor-driven rates.
* Use is contraindicated in patients with an implanted vena cava filter or mechanical tricuspid valve because of interference between these devices and the delivery system during implantation.
* Persons with known history of allergies to any of the components of this device may suffer an allergic reaction to this device. Prior to use on the patient, the patient should be counseled on the materials (listed in Product Materials section in IFU) contained in the device and a thorough history of allergies must be discussed.

**Adverse Events**: Potential complications associated with the use of the Aveir™ Leadless Pacemaker system are the same as with the use of single chamber pacemakers with active fixation pacing leads including, but not limited to: Cardiac perforation, Cardiac tamponade, Pericardial effusion, Pericarditis, Valve damage and/or regurgitation, Heart failure, Pneumothorax/hemothorax, Cardiac arrhythmias, Diaphragmatic/phrenic nerve stimulation / extra-cardiac stimulation, Palpitations, Hypotension, Syncope, Cerebrovascular accident, Infection, Hypersensitivity reaction to device materials, medications, or direct toxic effect of contrast media on kidney function, Pacemaker syndrome, Inability to interrogate or program the LP due to programmer or LP malfunction, Intermittent or complete loss of pacing and/or sensing due to dislodgement or mechanical malfunction of the LP (non-battery related), Loss of capture or sensing due to embolization or fibrotic tissue response at the electrode, Increased capture threshold, Inappropriate sensor response, Interruption of desired LP function due to electrical interference, either electromyogenic or electromagnetic, Battery malfunction/ premature battery depletion, Device-related complications (Premature deployment, Device dislodgement/embolization of foreign material, Helix distortion), Death.As with any percutaneous catheterization procedure, potential complications include, but are not limited to: Vascular access complications (such as perforation, dissection, puncture, groin pain), Bleeding or hematoma, Thrombus formation, Thromboembolism, Air embolism, Local and systemic infection, Peripheral nerve damage, General surgery risks and complications from comorbidities (such as hypotension, dyspnea, respiratory failure, syncope, pneumonia, hypertension, cardiac failure, reaction to sedation, renal failure, anemia, and death) |

C**AUTION:** This product is intended for use by or under the direction of a physician. Prior to use, reference the Instructions for Use, inside the product carton (when available) or at eifu.abbottvascular.com or at medical.abbott/manuals for more detailed information on Indications, Contraindications, Warnings, Precautions and Adverse Events.

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*[Physician Letterhead] [Date]*

Attention: Appeals Department Reference Number: *[ ] [Payer contact name]*

*[Payer contact title]*

*[Payer]*

*[Street address]*

*[City, State, zip code]*

**Re: Request for Reconsideration of Denied Claim of the single chamber leadless pacemaker**

Patient name: *[First and last name]*

Patient date of birth: *[XX/XX/XXXX]*

SS # *[XXX-XX-XXXX]*

Insurance ID # *[XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX]*

Group # *[XXXXXXXXXX]*

Date of Service: *[XX/XX/XXXX]*

***CPT Code****: 33274, Transcatheter insertion or replacement of permanent leadless pacemaker, right ventricular, including imaging guidance (e.g. fluoroscopy, venous ultrasound, ventriculography, femoral venography), and device evaluation (e.g. interrogation or programming) when performed*

*OR*

***CPT Code:*** *33275,**Transcatheter removal of permanent leadless pacemaker, right ventricular, including imaging guidance (e.g fluoroscopy, venous ultrasound, ventriculography, femoral venography) when performed*

Dear *[Payer contact name]*:

I am writing to request *reconsideration of the denied claim, [claim #],* for the above-referenced service. The service was a medically necessary implant of the Aveir™ VR single chamber leadless pacemaker device, provided to *[patient’s name]* on *[procedure date]*.

A letter of Pre-Authorization was submitted prior to the procedure on [date of submission], and approved on [date of approval], [enter reference #/pre-authorization approval letter #]. The claim, however, is now denied due to enter denial reason. *If claim was denied due to procedure falling outside of allowable timeline given on original pre-authorization approval, explain in detail why procedure took place prior or after.*

I urge you to reconsider your denial of the claim in light of the patient’s specific clinical need, as well as the evidence for this technology, including its FDA approval. The leadless pacemaker is a single chamber, right ventricular device intended to provide sensing of intrinsic cardiac signals and delivery of cardiac pacing therapy. The device is indicated for significant bradycardia in the setting of normal sinus rhythm with rare episodes of AV-block or sinus arrest, chronic atrial fibrillation, and/or severe physical disability.

[If applicable] Documentation by the referring physician, as well as my examination, supports the determination of this patient’s need for Leadless Pacemaker.

*[Insert paragraph explaining, in your own words, why AVEIR™ VR is medically necessary for this patient. Where accurate, consider documenting how the patient’s condition reflects the on-label use of the product; why more extensive interventions are inadequate in light of the patient’s condition; your expectations of the patient’s outcomes without the LP procedure; how patient’s way of life and/or medical condition has benefited already from the procedure itself]*

I am attaching the patient’s medical record information and letter of medical necessity from my initial and approved request.

*[Include the following statement if additional information is to be attached]*

I have attached *relevant excerpts from the patient’s ongoing medical record, a summary of clinical evidence with references from peer-reviewed medical journals*, etc.

As explained above, I believe that in this case that the leadless pacemaker implant is, and was medically necessary for this patient and as such this service should be granted coverage and paid for by your organization accordingly.

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:

*[Copy of original Pre-Authorization approval letter]*

*[Patient medical records/chart notes]*

*[FDA Approval letter – AVEIR™ VR Leadless Pacemaker]*

*[Evidence summary and select literature]*