



Coverage of any medical intervention discussed in a WellFirst Health medical policy is subject to the limitations and exclusions outlined in the member's benefit certificate or policy and to applicable state and/or federal laws.

Lung-Volume Reduction Surgery/Bullectomy for End-Stage Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease **MP9006**

Covered Service: Yes

Prior Authorization Required: No

Additional Information: None

WellFirst Health Medical Policy:

- 1.0 Lung volume reduction surgery (LVRS) is medically necessary for members who meet **ALL** of the following criteria.
 - 1.1 The member has a history and physical examination consistent with emphysema; AND
 - 1.2 The member has not smoked for 4 or more months; AND
 - 1.3 For members with cardiac ejection fraction less than 45%, there is no history or congestive heart failure or myocardial infarction within six months of consideration for surgery.
- 2.0 WellFirst Health considers lung volume reduction surgery experimental/investigational and not medically necessary for all other indications.
- 3.0 WellFirst Health considers bullectomy medically necessary for the treatment of dyspneic members with giant bulbous emphysema when they have a single large bulla producing significant respiratory compromise (an FEV1 less than 50% predicted).
- 4.0 WellFirst Health considers bullectomy experimental/investigational and not medically necessary for all other indications.
- 5.0 WellFirst Health considers thoracoscopy laser LVRS or bullectomy experimental/investigational and not medically necessary in the treatment of members with emphysematous lung due to inadequate clinical evidence of safety and/or efficacy in published, peer reviewed literature.
- 6.0 The medical literature does not show improved clinical outcomes for the use of bronchoscopic lung volume reduction procedures (e.g. bronchial valve placement, biologic lung volume reduction, bronchopulmonary fenestration). Therefore, these treatments are considered experimental/investigational and not medically necessary.



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	Committee/Source	Date(s)
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