



## Medicare & Insurance Reimbursement Summary

\*\*\* Medicare and 3<sup>rd</sup> party Insurance billing is a highly specialized and ever-changing environment requiring a vast knowledge of forms, codes and procedures that are to be followed by highly trained and skilled Hospital billing staff. With this in mind, the following represents, to the best of our knowledge, the process that Hospitals might use in order to gain reimbursement for using Heart Hugger Sternum Support Harness when furnished incident to a procedure performed in the Hospital. In an effort to assist with questions the Hospital Administration may have on the process of reimbursement we can supply the following information.

- Per Region IX of the Health Care Financing Administration (now known as CMS – Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services), Heart Hugger . . . “the support harness is a Medicare-covered device when either prescribed by a physician or furnished incident to a physician’s service. The harness is covered under section 2133 of the Medicare Carriers Manual (HCFA Publication 14-3) within the definition of a brace. For Medicare purposes, a brace includes either a rigid or semi-rigid device, and is used for supporting a weak or deformed body member and restricts or eliminates motion in a diseased or injured part of the body.”
- We also believe that Heart Hugger would also fall under the Medicare Intermediary Manual (Publication 13-3) section 3101.4 & 3101.5 when utilized for in-patient services (Part A Coverage).
- To be reimbursed Part A from Medicare either a standing order or a Surgeons prescription for Heart Hugger is necessary. The prescription or standing order should include a statement following the Doctors orders to the effect: “*Includes custom fit by Nursing Personnel*”. Typical and customary reimbursement ranges from \$115.00 up to \$155.00+, depending on different economic regions of the country. Heart Hugger can be included on the Hospital’s UB92 form as part of the costs of the patient’s procedure and submitted to the Intermediary.

### FDA CLASSIFICATION

Heart Hugger is classified by the FDA as a Class I Medical Device and listed as a Therapeutic Medical Binder.

### THIRD PARTY INSURANCE

HMOs, PPOs and other health care insurance providers are obliged to reimburse for Heart Hugger due to Heart Hugger being approved for Medicare reimbursement.

For further information contact:

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard, Baltimore MD 21244-1850  
877-267-2323 or 410-786-3000  
[www.cms.hhs.gov](http://www.cms.hhs.gov)

Veritus Medicare  
800-560-6170  
[www.veritusmedicare.com](http://www.veritusmedicare.com)