

Number: Special Bulletin to Cardiologists and Cardiovascular Surgeons	Date: May 6, 2010	Page: 1 of 1
Subject: Percutaneous Heart Valve Device Program	Reference: n/a	

As part of a clinical trial, the Providence Heart and Lung Institute at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver, British Columbia provides heart valve surgery to patients using a Percutaneous Heart Valve (PHV) device.

Heart valve surgery using the PHV device is not available in Alberta. Alberta Health and Wellness has recently established the Percutaneous Heart Valve Device Program for Albertans who receive heart valve surgery through the clinical trial at St. Paul's Hospital.

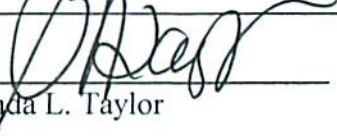
Alberta physicians who wish to refer patients to St. Paul's Hospital for the PHV clinical trial **must obtain prior approval from Alberta Health and Wellness** in order for benefits to be paid for the PHV device. Other associated costs are covered under the Alberta-British Columbia reciprocal agreements for hospital and physician services. Alberta Health and Wellness will review funding requests on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the following policy:

- a) The patient must be an Alberta resident eligible for coverage under the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan, and;
- b) The patient must be referred by an Alberta cardiologist or cardiovascular surgeon, and;
- c) The physician requesting approval on the patient's behalf must set out in the application the reasons for the request.

The Percutaneous Heart Valve Device Program will be in effect until March 31, 2011 at which time the program will be reviewed. If you have questions about the program, please contact the Out-of-Province/Out-of-Country Special Programs intake line at 780-415-8744 in Edmonton or toll free in Alberta at 310-0000 then enter 780-415-8744.

Requests for prior approval for the PHV device under the program should be sent to:

Out of Province/Out of Country Special Programs
Health Care Insurance Plan Administration Branch
Alberta Health and Wellness
PO Box 1360 Station Main
Edmonton AB T5J 2N3
Fax: 780-415-0963

Contact: Out-of-Province/Out-of-Country Special Programs	Approval:  Brenda L. Taylor
Telephone: Local 780-415-8744 Toll free 310-0000	Position: Executive Director Health Care Insurance Plan Administration Branch
Fax: 780-415-0963	