



Aetna Institutes of Quality® Cardiac Surgery Summary of Criteria

Facility requirements for consideration

We select facilities for our Institutes of Quality (IOQ) Cardiac Surgery network that meet our requirements for quality, value and access. The evaluation for Cardiac Surgery includes coronary artery bypass surgery (CABG) and atrial valve replacement (AVR) based on the facility's publicly available data and other data, including our own. The Cardiac Surgery IOQ network applies to Aetna® members ages 18 and over.

To be considered, a facility must meet certain measures of:

- Clinical quality
- Contract requirements
- Cost efficiency
- Access for cardiac surgery services

Designation process

The current three-year review cycle is 2024–2026. A new cycle starts in 2027.

The quality review process takes place in year one between January and May. No quality review data is accepted or reviewed after this time period. Final designations are done in the fourth quarter, which closes the review process until the start of the next three-year review cycle. Designation is valid for three years and is dependent upon ongoing compliance with program requirements.

[Here's an overview of the process:](#)

1. We review the facility's publicly reported data to determine clinical eligibility. If the facility doesn't meet all applicable clinical criteria, it's not eligible for designation. We evaluate no further.
2. If the facility meets all applicable clinical criteria, we determine if it also meets contract, cost efficiency and network access criteria. If it meets all these requirements, we'll designate the facility into the network.
3. We'll let the facility know if it's designated into the network.
4. We'll list the designated facility in our online provider directory.

Program requirements

To be considered for designation, facilities must meet:

All business requirements

1. Aetna must credential the facility and the surgeons, and they must participate in the Aetna® provider network for all benefit plans and products available in their geographic area.
2. The inpatient facility must report CABG and AVR data to the Society of Thoracic

Surgeons (STS) and make that data public in the STS National Adult Cardiac Surgery Database.

One or more clinical requirements

1. The facility has a CABG STS Star Rating of 2 or 3 with Absence of Operative Mortality and Absence of Major Morbidity and Use of Internal Mammary Artery scores of 2 or 3 and an AVR STS Star Rating of 2 or 3 with Absence of Operative Mortality and Absence of Major Morbidity scores of 2 or 3.
2. The facility has a current Comprehensive Cardiac Center Certification and/or Comprehensive Heart Attack Center Certification with The Joint Commission and a CABG STS Star Rating of 3.
3. The facility has an Institutes of Excellence Adult Heart Transplant designation and a CABG STS Star Rating of 3.

Data management

To maintain designation, the facility must comply with IOQ requirements. Programs must be able to collect, analyze and report data, and they must submit updated information upon request.

Questions? We're here to help.

You can email any questions to AetnaCardiacIOQ-National@Aetna.com.

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