

On April 30, 2012, CMS issued a national coverage determination (NCD) to allow coverage of extracorporeal photopheresis (ECP) for the treatment of bronchiolitis obliterans syndrome (BOS) following lung allograft transplantation when ECP is provided in a clinical research study under the coverage with evidence development policy (CED). BOS is estimated to be present in more than 50% of lung allograft recipients at five years after transplantation, and remains a major obstacle to long-term lung transplant survival.

One of the requirements of a CED research study protocol is that it should discuss how the results are or are not expected to be generalizable to the Medicare population, to allow statistical inferences about whether Medicare patients may benefit from the intervention. We provide a table of the incidence of lung transplants in the Medicare population in recent years to aid researchers who develop CED studies of ECP for BOS in determining sample size estimates.

Counts of Medicare beneficiaries* receiving lung transplants**, 2006-2011

	Age group						Total
	< 35	35 - 45	40-55	55-64	65 - 69	75+	
Year							
2006	35	23	60	189	98	18	423
2007	47	21	52	160	129	27	436
2008	42	29	54	151	142	41	459
2009	42	32	61	164	190	47	536
2010	44	35	52	144	221	92	588
2011	57	24	61	172	254	103	671
Total	267	164	340	980	1,034	328	3,113

*Patients under age 65 are on disability.

**CPT codes: 32851, 32852, 32853, and 32854

Source: Medicare Part B Claims Data