April 9, 2020

Dear Physician / Health Care Provider,

As the Coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to spread around the globe, our understanding about the risks associated with infection and potential treatments is limited, but quickly evolving. The risk of sudden cardiac death for certain patients with pre-existing conditions or related to some COVID-19 treatments under clinical evaluation has prompted questions from the medical community about the use of and coverage for a wearable defibrillator for these patients. The purpose of this letter is to provide information about ZOLL’s approach to coverage in these situations should you determine a wearable defibrillator is appropriate as part of your care plan for a patient in these situations.

- Patients with a nonischemic cardiomyopathy (NICM) with an ejection fraction less than or equal to 35% (EF≤35%) resulting from an active or prior COVID-19 infection are covered as part of any existing NICM EF≤35% coverage criteria. The majority of government and commercial payers provide coverage for this criteria and ZOLL will follow our standard procedures for determining a patient’s coverage situation.

- Patients with a baseline QTc interval >500ms prior to being treated with QTc-prolonging drugs (e.g. chloroquine, hydroxychloroquine with or without azithromycin, and/or lopinavir / ritonavir) for a COVID-19 infection are not covered under current criteria for government or commercial payers. For these patients, ZOLL will provide a wearable defibrillator if the patient agrees to provide ZOLL authorization to pursue claims coverage with their insurance carrier and provides their consent for ZOLL to appeal on their behalf. If the claim is covered by the insurance carrier, the patient will be responsible for any deductible, co-pay, or other requirements per their insurance policy. ZOLL will bear the risk of any unsuccessful appeal and will not bill the patient for non-covered services.

In addition, we have developed policies and procedures for fitting and training known or suspected COVID-19 patients in a hospital or at home, including a no-contact option, to ensure that we can provide services for these patients that you determine are appropriate. ZOLL is following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), and all other government authorities and working closely with each facility to follow current protocols at each institution, or in patients’ homes.
As always, you can contact your local ZOLL representative or call our support team 24/7 at 1-800-543-3267.

Sincerely,

Jason Whiting
President
ZOLL