



# WATCHMAN FLX™ Pro

LEFT ATRIAL APPENDAGE CLOSURE DEVICE

## Reimbursement Guide

This comprehensive guide provides an overview of the coding, coverage and payment landscape for the WATCHMAN FLX Pro LAAC Device.

For questions regarding WATCHMAN FLX Pro LAAC Device reimbursement, please contact:

**Email:** [WATCHMAN.Reimbursement@bsci.com](mailto:WATCHMAN.Reimbursement@bsci.com)

Please go to [www.watchmandownloadcenter.com](http://www.watchmandownloadcenter.com) for additional resources.

The FDA Approved the WATCHMAN FLX Pro LAAC Device on September 7, 2023.

To access the WATCHMAN FLX Pro LAAC Device approval document, visit [the FDA website](#)



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## Important Information

Health economic and reimbursement information provided by Boston Scientific Corporation is gathered from third-party sources and is subject to change without notice as a result of complex and frequently changing laws, regulations, rules, and policies.

This information is presented for illustrative purposes only and does not constitute reimbursement or legal advice.

Boston Scientific encourages providers to submit accurate and appropriate claims for services. **It is always the provider's responsibility to determine medical necessity, the proper site for delivery of any services, and to submit appropriate codes, charges, and modifiers for services rendered.**

It is also always the provider's responsibility to understand and comply with Medicare national coverage determinations (NCD), Medicare local coverage determinations (LCD), and any other coverage requirements established by relevant payers which can be updated frequently. Boston Scientific recommends that you consult with your payers, reimbursement specialists, and/or legal counsel regarding coding, coverage, and reimbursement matters.

Boston Scientific does not promote the use of its products outside their FDA-approved label.

Payer policies will vary and should be verified prior to treatment for limitations on diagnosis, coding, or site of service requirements.

The coding options listed within this guide are commonly used codes and are not intended to be an all-inclusive list. We recommend consulting your relevant manuals for appropriate coding options.

This coding information may include codes for procedures for which Boston Scientific currently offers no cleared or approved products. In those instances, such codes have been included solely in the interest of providing users with comprehensive coding information and are not intended to promote the use of any Boston Scientific products for which they are not cleared or approved. The Health Care Provider (HCP) is solely responsible for selecting the site of service and treatment modalities appropriate for the patient based on medically appropriate needs of that patient and the independent medical judgement of the HCP.

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Coding Summary

	Hospital Inpatient	Physician
Coding	ICD-10-PCS Procedure Code <b>02L73DK</b>	CPT® Code <b>33340</b>
Payment	<b>MS-DRG 273 or MS-DRG 274</b> <b>MS-DRG 317</b> (Concomitant with Cardiac Ablation)	14.00 Work RVUs 22.87 Total RVUs
Diagnosis Codes	<b>ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes</b> <b>I48.91</b> Unspecified Atrial Fibrillation <b>I48.20</b> Chronic Atrial Fibrillation, Unspecified* <b>I48.21</b> Permanent Atrial Fibrillation <b>I48.0</b> Paroxysmal Atrial Fibrillation <b>I48.11</b> Longstanding Persistent Atrial Fibrillation <b>I48.19</b> Other Persistent Atrial Fibrillation	
Coverage	<b>Original Medicare</b> – CMS National Coverage Determination (NCD 20.34) establishes uniform coverage criteria¹ <b>Medicare Advantage</b> – Medicare Advantage plans must cover all the services that Original Medicare covers. The NCD 20.34 coverage criteria for Original Medicare also provides coverage to Medicare Advantage Patients² <b>Private Payers</b> – Coverage dependent on individual payer policy	

\*The unspecified code is **NOT COVERED** under the NCD for LAAC. LAAC claims reported with this diagnosis code will be denied. Some private payers have included this ICD-10-CM code in their coverage policy

1 <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/nca-decision-memo.aspx?NCAId=281>

2 <https://www.medicare.gov/what-medicare-covers/what-medicare-health-plans-cover/medicare-advantage-plans-cover-all-medicare-services>

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# ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes

## ICD-10-CM Atrial Fibrillation Diagnosis Coding

Use of the following codes is required to facilitate claims processing for services associated with an AF diagnosis, including Left Atrial Appendage Closure (LAAC).

ICD-10-CM Codes
<b>I48.91</b> Unspecified Atrial Fibrillation
<b>I48.20</b> Chronic Atrial Fibrillation, Unspecified*
<b>I48.21</b> Permanent Atrial Fibrillation
<b>I48.0</b> Paroxysmal Atrial Fibrillation
<b>I48.11</b> Longstanding Persistent Atrial Fibrillation
<b>I48.19</b> Other Persistent Atrial Fibrillation

\*The unspecified code is **NOT COVERED** under the NCD for LAAC. LAAC claims reported with this diagnosis code will be denied.

# Hospital Reimbursement

Medicare classifies WATCHMAN FLX Pro LAAC Device procedures as Inpatient-only. The “Two-Midnight Rule” is not applicable for procedures restricted to the Inpatient Only (IPO) list.

ICD-10-PCS	MS-DRG Description
02L73DK	Occlusion of left atrial appendage with intraluminal device, percutaneous approach

MS-DRG	MS-DRG Description	FY 2026 National Average Payment*
MS-DRG 273	Percutaneous Intracardiac Procedures with MCC	\$30,020
MS-DRG 274	Percutaneous Intracardiac Procedures without MCC	\$23,953
MS-DRG 317	Concomitant Left Atrial Appendage Closure and Cardiac Ablation	\$48,656

\*Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services FY2026 Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System, Final Rule; July 2025. Rates Effective October 1, 2025. [FY 2026 IPPS Final Rule Home Page | CMS](#)

## Inpatient Readmissions

When an inpatient hospital WATCHMAN FLX Pro LAAC Device admission follows a previous inpatient admission for a related or unrelated procedure, readmission policies may apply. A quality review may be triggered and warrant a case review to evaluate combining the inpatient admissions. Each case is specific to clinical circumstances for each admission.

<https://www.cms.gov/search/cms?keys=design+and+development+of+DRG+groups>

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/Downloads/2020-ICD-10-PCS-Guidelines.pdf>

## Hospital Reimbursement

Continued

### Transesophageal Echocardiogram (TEE) — Baseline and Follow-Up

CPT Code	Description	APC	CY 2025 National Average Payment*
93312	Echocardiography, transesophageal, real-time with image documentation (2D) (with or without M-mode recording); including probe placement, image acquisition, interpretation and report.	5524	\$548

\*Commercial payment will vary and will be at discretion of the payer.

### Computed Tomography (CT) — Baseline and Follow-Up

CPT Code	Description	APC	CY 2025 National Average Payment*
75572	Computed tomography, heart, with contrast structure and morphology (including 3D image postprocessing, assessment of cardiac function, and evaluation of venous structures, if performed).	5572	\$357
75574	Computed tomography, heart, coronary arteries and bypass grafts (when present), with contrast material, including 3D image postprocessing (including evaluation of cardiac structure and morphology, assessment of cardiac function, and evaluation of venous structures, if performed).		

\*Cardiac CT procedures moved from APC 5571 to APC 5572 starting in CY2025.

## Hospital Reimbursement

Continued

### Transesophageal Echocardiogram (TEE) — Intraoperative

CPT Code	Description	APC	CY 2025 National Average Payment*
93355	Echocardiography, transesophageal (TEE) for guidance of a transcatheter intracardiac or great vessel(s) structural intervention(s) (e.g., TAVR, transcatheter pulmonary valve replacement, mitral valve repair, para-valvular regurgitation repair, left atrial appendage occlusion/closure, ventricular septal defect closure) (peri-and intra-procedural), real-time image acquisition and documentation, guidance with quantitative measurements, probe manipulation, interpretation, and report, including diagnostic transesophageal echocardiography and, when performed, administration of ultrasound contrast, Doppler, color flow, and 3D.	Not Applicable – N Status Indicator	Bundled Service

\*Commercial payment will vary and will be at discretion of the payer.

### Intracardiac Echocardiography (ICE) - Intraoperative

CPT Code	Description	APC	CY 2025 National Average Payment*
+93662	Intracardiac echocardiography during therapeutic/diagnostic intervention, including imaging supervision and interpretation (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure).	Not Applicable – N Status Indicator	Bundled Service

\*Commercial payment will vary and will be at discretion of the payer.

CMS CY2025 Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment – Notice of Final Rulemaking (NFRM): CMS-1809-FC. Effective through December 31, 2025.



## Physician Reimbursement

### WATCHMAN FLX Pro LAAC Device Procedure

CPT Code	Description	RVU	CY 2025 National Average Payment*
33340	Percutaneous transcatheter closure of the left atrial appendage with implant, including fluoroscopy, transseptal puncture, catheter placement(s), left atrial angiography, left atrial appendage angiography, radiological supervision and interpretation.	14.00 Work RVUs 22.87 Total RVUs	\$740

\*Commercial payment will vary and will be at discretion of the payer.

#### Same Physician Performing Implant and Intraoperative TEE

CPT Codes 33340 (WATCHMAN FLX LAAC Device) and 93355 (Intraoperative TEE) cannot be billed by the same physician.

Medicare – National Correct Coding Policy Manual, Physician Version 23.0/Policy Narratives (1/1/2017): Chapter I General Correct Coding Policies, Excerpt – Section E.

### Concomitant Cardiac Ablation and WATCHMAN FLX LAAC Procedure

CPT™ Code	Description	RVU	FY 2025 National Average Payment*
33340	Percutaneous transcatheter closure of the left atrial appendage with implant, including fluoroscopy, transseptal puncture, catheter placement(s), left atrial angiography, left atrial appendage angiography, radiological supervision and interpretation	14.00 work RVUs 22.87 Total RVUs	\$1,267**
93656	Comprehensive electrophysiologic evaluation with transseptal catheterizations, insertion and repositioning of multiple electrode catheters, induction or attempted induction of an arrhythmia including left or right atrial pacing/recording, and intracardiac catheter ablation of atrial fibrillation by pulmonary vein isolation, including intracardiac electrophysiologic 3-dimensional mapping, intracardiac echocardiography with imaging supervision and interpretation, right ventricular pacing/recording, and His bundle recording, when performed	17.00 work 27.72 Total RVUs	

\*Commercial payment will vary and will be at the discretion of the payer.

\*\*MPPR payment Calculation:  $\$896.64 + (739.76 \times .5) = \$1,266.52$

## Physician Reimbursement

Continued

Medicare's Multiple Procedure Payment Reduction (MPPR) policy applies when CPT codes 33340 (LAAC) and 93656 (AF ablation) are reported by the same physician during a single operative session. Under the MPPR, the highest paying procedure is paid at 100% of the global fee schedule allowable, and procedures #2-5 are paid at 50% of the global fee schedule allowable.

Medicare Claims Processing Manual Chapter 12, Physicians/Nonphysician Practitioners, Section 40.6 - Claims for Multiple Surgeries  
The Multiple Procedure Rule. AAPC Knowledge Center. <https://www.aapc.com/blog/27973-understanding-the-multiple-procedure-rule/>.

## Co-Surgeon Billing

CPT Code + Modifier	Description
33340-62	Left atrial appendage closure can be billed by two surgeons by appending the -62 modifier to 33340 (eg. 33340-62).

- If two surgeons are required to perform a specific portion of the procedure, each surgeon bills for the procedure with a modifier of "-62"
- Each operator is required to submit their own post-operative note and must report 33340-62
- The fee schedule amount applicable to the payment for each co-surgeon is 62.5% of the global surgery fee amount

## Transesophageal Echocardiogram (TEE) — Baseline and Follow-Up

CPT Code	Description	RVU	CY 2025 National Average Payment*
93312	Echocardiography, transesophageal, real-time with image documentation (2D) (with or without M-mode recording); including probe placement, image acquisition, interpretation and report.	2.30 Work RVUs 6.97 Total Non-Facility RVUs 3.12 Total Facility RVUs (-26)	Global \$225 Professional \$101

\*Commercial payment will vary and will be at discretion of the payer. Global includes professional and technical services. Professional only includes services reported with -26 modifier.

## Physician Reimbursement

Continued

### Computed Tomography (CT) — Baseline and Follow-Up

CPT Code	Description	RVU	CY 2025 National Average Payment*
75572	Computed tomography, heart, with contrast material, for evaluation of cardiac structure and morphology (including 3D image postprocessing, assessment of cardiac function, and evaluation of venous structures, if performed).	1.75 Work RVUs  6.94 Total Non-Facility RVUs  2.44 Total Facility RVUs (-26)	Global \$224  Professional \$79
75574	Computed tomographic angiography, heart, coronary arteries and bypass grafts (when present), with contrast material, including 3D image postprocessing (including evaluation of cardiac structure and morphology, assessment of cardiac function, and evaluation of venous structures, if performed)	2.40 Work RVUs  9.84 Total Non-Facility RVUs  3.37 Total Facility RVUs (-26)	Global \$318  Professional \$109

\*Commercial payment will vary and will be at discretion of the payer. Global includes professional and technical services. Professional only includes services reported with -26 modifier.

**Physician Reimbursement**  
Continued

**Transesophageal Echocardiogram (TEE) – Intraoperative**

CPT Code	Description	RVU	CY 2025 National Average Payment*
93355	Echocardiography, transesophageal (TEE) for guidance of a transcatheter intracardiac or great vessel(s) structural intervention(s) (e.g., TAVR, transcatheter pulmonary valve replacement, mitral valve repair, paravalvular regurgitation repair, left atrial appendage occlusion/ closure, ventricular septal defect closure) (peri-and intra-procedural), real-time image acquisition and documentation, guidance with quantitative measurements, probe manipulation, interpretation, and report, including diagnostic transesophageal echocardiography and, when performed, administration of ultrasound contrast, Doppler, color flow, and 3D.	4.66 Work RVUs  6.60 Total RVUs	\$213

\*Commercial payment will vary and will be at discretion of the payer. Code 93355 RVU for global payment only, no separate professional component applies.

**Same Physician Performing Anesthesia and Intraoperative TEE**

CPT Codes 01926 (Anesthesia) and 93355 (Intraoperative TEE) can not be billed by the same physician.

Medicare – National Correct Coding Policy Manual, Physician Version 23.0/Policy Narratives (1/1/2017): Chapter I General Correct Coding Policies, Excerpt – Section E.

**Physician Reimbursement**  
Continued

**Intracardiac Echocardiography (ICE) — Intraoperative**

CPT Code	Description	RVU	CY 2025 National Average Payment*
+93662	Intracardiac echocardiography during therapeutic/diagnostic intervention, including imaging supervision and interpretation (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure)	1.44 Work RVUs (-26)  2.05 Total RVUs (-26)	\$67

\*Commercial payment will vary and will be at discretion of the payer. Code 93662 RVU for professional payment only. Professional only includes services reported with -26 modifier.

CMS CY2025 Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) Final Rule: CMS 1807-F, including related PFS addenda.  
Conversion Factor used in calculations = \$32.3465. Effective through December 31, 2025.

## Professional Claim Billing

- 1 CPT Code 33340** Percutaneous transcatheter closure of the left atrial appendage with implant, including fluoroscopy transseptal puncture, catheter placement(s), left atrial angiography, left atrial appendage angiography, radiological supervision and interpretation
- 2 Principal ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Code** (one of the following):
  - I48.0 – Paroxysmal atrial fibrillation
  - I48.11 – Longstanding persistent atrial fibrillation
  - I48.19 – Other persistent atrial fibrillation
  - I48.20 – Chronic atrial fibrillation, unspecified\*
  - I48.21– Permanent atrial fibrillation
  - I48.91 – Unspecified atrial fibrillation
- 3 Place of Service Code of 21** – Inpatient hospital
- 4 Secondary Diagnosis Code Z00.6** – Encounter for exam of participant in clinical research program to indicate a patient is participating in LAAO Registry
- 5 Modifier Q0** – Indicating the procedure is an investigational clinical service provided in an approved clinical research study
- 6 Clinical Trial Number** – CT 02699957

The 8-digit clinical trial registry number preceded by the alpha characteristic "CT", is placed in field/item 19 of the CMS 1500 claim form or in the electronic claim equivalent 837p in Loop 2300 REF02(REF01=P4)(this is actually field/item 23).

\*The unspecified code is NOT COVERED under the CMS NCD for LAAC. Some private payers have included this ICD-10 code in their coverage policy

## CMS 1500 Claim Example for WATCHMAN FLX™ Pro LAAC Device

### HEALTH INSURANCE CLAIM FORM

APPROVED BY NATIONAL UNIFORM CLAIM COMMITTEE (NUCC) 02/12

<input type="checkbox"/> PICA <span style="float: right;">PICA <input type="checkbox"/></span>									
1. MEDICARE <input type="checkbox"/> MEDICAID <input type="checkbox"/> TRICARE <input type="checkbox"/> CHAMPVA <input type="checkbox"/> GROUP HEALTH PLAN <input type="checkbox"/> FECA BLK LUNG <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER <input type="checkbox"/>									
2. PATIENT'S NAME (Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial)									
3. PATIENT'S BIRTH DATE MM DD YY SEX M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/>									
4. INSURED'S NAME (Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial)									
5. PATIENT'S ADDRESS (No., Street)									
6. PATIENT RELATIONSHIP TO INSURED Self <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> Child <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>									
7. INSURED'S ADDRESS (No., Street)									
8. RESERVED FOR NUCC USE									
9. OTHER INSURED'S NAME (Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial)									
10. IS PATIENT'S CONDITION RELATED TO:									
11. INSURED'S POLICY GROUP OR FECA NUMBER									
12. OTHER INSURED'S POLICY OR GROUP NUMBER									
13. INSURED'S DATE OF BIRTH MM DD YY SEX M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/>									
14. OTHER CLAIM ID (Designated by NUCC)									
15. INSURANCE PLAN NAME OR PROGRAM NAME									
16. IS THERE ANOTHER HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, complete items 9, 9a, and 9d.									
17. INSURED'S OR AUTHORIZED PERSON'S SIGNATURE I authorize payment of medical benefits to the undersigned physician or supplier for services.									
18. SIGNATURE									
19. DATES FROM TO									
20. HOSPITAL FROM TO									
21. OUTSIDE LAB? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> \$ CHARGES									
22. RESUBMISSION CODE ORIGINAL REF. NO.									
23. PRIOR AUTHORIZATION NUMBER CT02699957									
24. A. DATE(S) OF SERVICE From To B. PLACE OF SERVICE C. D. PROCEDURES, SERVICES, OR SUPPLIES (Explain Unusual Circumstances) E. DIAGNOSIS POINTER F. \$ CHARGES G. DAYS OF UNITS H. EPST Family Plan I. ID. QUAL. J. RENDERING PROVIDER ID. #									
1 01 01 17 01 02 17 21 33340 Q0 A,B 1 NPI									
2									
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4									
5									
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Item 21A designates the primary diagnosis codes as required by Medicare. One of the following diagnosis codes are allowed:  
I48.0-Paroxysmal atrial fibrillation  
I48.11-Longstanding persistent atrial fibrillation  
I48.19-Other persistent atrial fibrillation  
I48.20-Chronic atrial fibrillation, unspecified\*  
I48.21-Permanent atrial fibrillation  
I48.91-Unspecified atrial fibrillation  
\*The unspecified code is NOT COVERED under the CMS NCD for LAAC. Some private payers have included this ICD-10 code in their coverage policy

Item 21B designates the secondary ICD-10-CM diagnosis code Z00.6 (Encounter for examination of participant in clinical research program) to indicate the patient is participating in the LAAC registry.

Item 23 designates the National Clinical Trial (NCT) number for the Left Atrial Appendage Occlusion (LAAC) registry.

Item 24B designates place of service (POS) 21 for inpatient hospital as required by Medicare.

Item 24D designates the CPT Code 33340 for the WATCHMAN™ FLX LAAC Device.

Item 24D designates the HCPCS modifier Q0 (Investigational service provided in a clinical research study) to indicate the patient is participating in the LAAC registry.

Sources:  
Items 21A-21B & 24B-24D) CMS Medicare Claims Processing Transmittal 3515; Medlearn Matters Number MM9638 Item 23-1) CMS Medicare Medlearn Matters Number MM9638; Claims Processing Transmittal 2955  
Item 23-2) Left Atrial Appendage Occlusion Registry, [clinicaltrials.gov](https://clinicaltrials.gov); <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coverage/Coverage-with-Evidence-Development/LAAC.html>  
Item 24D) Official AMA CPT code description 33340 Percutaneous transcatheter closure of the left atrial appendage with endocardial implant, including fluoroscopy, transseptal puncture, catheter placement(s), left atrial angiography, left atrial appendage angiography, when performed, and radiological supervision and interpretation.

IC-420005-AD

See page 2 for important information about the uses and limitations of this document.

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## Institutional Hospital Claims Billing

- 1 ICD-10-PCS Procedure Code 02L73DK** Occlusion of Left Atrial Appendage with Intraluminal Device, Percutaneous Approach
- 2 Principal ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Code** of one of the following:
  - I48.0 – Paroxysmal atrial fibrillation
  - I48.11 – Longstanding persistent atrial fibrillation
  - I48.19 – Other persistent atrial fibrillation
  - I48.20 – Chronic atrial fibrillation, unspecified\*
  - I48.21 – Permanent atrial fibrillation
  - I48.91 – Unspecified atrial fibrillation
- 3 Secondary Diagnosis Code Z00.6** – Encounter for exam of participant in clinical research program to indicate a patient is participating in LAAO Registry
- 4 Condition Code 30** – Qualifying Clinical Trial
- 5 Value Code D4** – Clinical Trial Number (NCT 02699957) is listed on the CMS website: [clinicaltrials.gov](https://clinicaltrials.gov)

\*The unspecified code is **NOT COVERED** under the CMS NCD for LAAC. Some private payers have included this ICD-10-CM code in their coverage policy

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coverage/Coverage-with-Evidence-Development/LAAC>

<https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R3515CP.pdf>

<https://www.cms.gov/medicare/coordination-benefits-recovery/overview/icd-code-lists>



CMS Inpatient UB-04 Claim Example for WATCHMAN FLX™ Pro LAAC Device																																																																																																																																																																																													
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## Institutional Hospital Claims Billing

Continued

### Device C-Code

The WATCHMAN FLX Pro LAAC Device is classified by Medicare as an “Inpatient Only” procedure therefore no HCPCS device category C-code exists for WATCHMAN FLX Pro LAAC Device.

- A hospital may assign its own internal charge code, associated with an appropriate revenue code, to record the cost of the device.
- If a device category C-code is required by the hospital charging system, please review the web link below for the CMS approved list as of October 1, 2024.

<https://www.cms.gov/medicare/coding-billing/healthcare-common-procedure-system/coding-questions>

## Discontinued or Aborted Procedure Billing

Discontinued or Aborted Procedures vary based on patient case details and physician documentation. The following scenario represents only one type of case. Consult AHA Coding Clinic and Official Coding Guidelines in the event of other clinical scenarios.

### **Scenario:**

The WATCHMAN device is inserted/implanted and removed during the same encounter.

Discontinued or aborted procedures vary based on case details and physician documentation of the procedure. Always consult AHA Coding Clinic and/or other authoritative resources for appropriate coding and billing.

#### **Inpatient Facility**

02H73DZ: Insertion of intraluminal device into LA, percutaneous approach,

#### **AND**

02PA3DZ: Removal of intraluminal device from heart, percutaneous approach

#### **Outpatient Facility**

33340-74: Modifier -74 is used on the CPT® code when a procedure is discontinued after it has started, and the patient has received anesthesia.

#### **Professional Services**

33340-53

Code assignment is based upon the physician work performed. If, for example, the physician was only able to perform the vascular access, consider reporting code 93452 for the procedure completed.

If the physician performed all the work along with a valid attempt to place the WATCHMAN device, then the planned procedure 33340 with a modifier -53 may be reported.

Modifier -53 is used when a procedure is discontinued for extenuating circumstances such as complications that threaten the patient's safety, including anatomical difficulties.

2020 ICD-10 PCS Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting (page 76), Guideline B6.1a.

American Hospital Association (AHA) Coding Clinic for ICD-10-CM/PCS, Fourth Quarter 2017: Page 104;  
Fourth Quarter ICD-10 2018 Page: 94

## Concomitant Procedure Billing

	Description	FY26 CMS National Rate <sup>1</sup>
<b>MS-DRG 317</b>	Concomitant Left Atrial Appendage Closure and Cardiac Ablation	\$48,656

1. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services FY2026 Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System, Final Rule; July 2025. Rates Effective October 1, 2025. [FY 2026 IPPS Final Rule Home Page | CMS](#)

### Hospital Claims Billing

Concomitant cardiac ablation and LAAC

- ICD-10-PCS codes 02583ZF (PFA) or 02583ZZ (thermal ablation) and 02L73DK**  
Use the cardiac ablation code (PFA or thermal) as the principal procedure
- Principal ICD-10-CM diagnosis code** of one of the following:
  - I48.0 – Paroxysmal atrial fibrillation
  - I48.11 – Longstanding persistent atrial fibrillation
  - I48.19 – Other persistent atrial fibrillation
  - I48.20 – Chronic atrial fibrillation, unspecified\*
  - I48.21 – Permanent atrial fibrillation
  - I48.91 – Unspecified atrial fibrillation
- Secondary diagnosis ICD-10 diagnosis code of Z00.6** – Encounter for examination for normal comparison and control in clinical research program
- Condition code 30** – Specifying participation in a Qualifying Clinical Trial
- Value code D4** – Clinical Trial Number (NCT 02699957) listed on clinicaltrials.gov

\*The unspecified code is **NOT COVERED** under NCD 20.34 for LAAC. LAAC claims reported with this diagnosis code will be denied by Medicare.

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coverage/Coverage-with-Evidence-Development/LAAC>

<https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R3515CP.pdf>

<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/2020-ICD-10-CM.html>

**CMS UB-04 Claim Example for Cardiac Ablation and WATCHMAN™ FLX Pro LAAC ("Ablate & Close") - Hospital Bill Type 11x (inpatient)**

[illegible]

## Professional Billing Best Practices for Concomitant Procedures

When a WATCHMAN procedure is performed during the same operative episode as a cardiac ablation procedure to treat atrial fibrillation, Medicare applies a Multiple Procedure Payment Reduction to the professional services.

- **Multiple Procedure Payment Reduction** – payment adjustment rule for multiple procedures applies to the service. The WATCHMAN FLX Pro LAAC Device procedure is assigned a '2' which indicates that standard payment adjustment rules for multiple procedures apply.
  - 100 percent of the fee schedule amount for the highest valued procedure; and
  - 50 percent of the fee schedule amount for the second through the fifth highest valued procedures

The Multiple Procedure Rule. AAPC Knowledge Center. <https://www.aapc.com/blog/27973-understanding-the-multiple-procedure-rule/>.

When a WATCHMAN procedure is performed on a separate date of service as another procedure, the Medicare Global Days policy applies.

- **Global Days** – time frames that apply to payment for each surgical procedure that describes the applicability of the global concept to the service.
  - **WATCHMAN FLX Pro LAAC Device is assigned a 000 global surgery payment indicator.** Therefore, only the preoperative and postoperative services related to the procedure for the day of surgery apply. Any services after the day of surgery depending upon physician documented medical necessity of the service and timing.

<https://www.cms.gov/apps/physician-fee-schedule/search/search-criteria.aspx>

### Physician Claims Billing

Concomitant Cardiac Ablation and LAAC; same physician

- 1 **CPT® codes 93656 and 33340** Use the pulmonary vein isolation ablation code 33340 (use for either PFA or a thermal ablation modality) as the principal procedure and append modifier -51 to each specifying multiple services
- 2 **Primary ICD-10-CM diagnosis code** of one of the following:
  - I48.0 – Paroxysmal atrial fibrillation
  - I48.11 – Longstanding persistent atrial fibrillation
  - I48.19 – Other persistent atrial fibrillation
  - I48.20 – Chronic atrial fibrillation, unspecified\*
  - I48.21 – Permanent atrial fibrillation
  - I48.91 – Unspecified atrial fibrillation

\*The unspecified code is **NOT COVERED** under NCD 20.34 for LAAC. LAAC claims reported with this diagnosis code will be denied by Medicare.

## Professional Billing Best Practices for Concomitant Procedures

Continued

- 3 Place of Service code of 21 on both services** – Designates both services as inpatient due to CMS restriction of LAAC procedure to the Inpatient Only services list (IPO)
- 4 Secondary diagnosis code Z00.6** – Encounter for examination for normal comparison and control in clinical research program
- 5 Modifier Q0** – Investigational service provided in a clinical research study to indicate patient participation in the LAAO registry
- 6 Clinical trial number** – CT 02699957

\*The 8-digit clinical trial registry number preceded by the alpha characteristic "CT", is placed in field/item 19 of the CMS 1500 claim form or in the electronic claim equivalent 837p in Loop 2300 REF02(REF01=P4) (this is actually field/item 23).

**CMS 1500 Claim Example for Cardiac Ablation and WATCHMAN™ FLX Pro LAAC ("Ablate & Close") - EP performs both AF Ablation and LAAC**

**HEALTH INSURANCE CLAIM FORM**

APPROVED BY NATIONAL UNIFORM CLAIM COMMITTEE (NUCC) 02/12

<input type="checkbox"/> PICA										<input type="checkbox"/> PICA									
1. MEDICARE <input type="checkbox"/> MEDICAID <input type="checkbox"/> TRICARE <input type="checkbox"/> CHAMPVA <input type="checkbox"/> GROUP HEALTH PLAN <input type="checkbox"/> FECA BLK LUNG <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER <input type="checkbox"/> (Medicare#) (Medicaid#) (ID#/DoD#) (Member ID#) (ID#) (ID#) (ID#)										1a. INSURED'S I.D. NUMBER (For Program in Item 1)									
2. PATIENT'S NAME (Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial)										3. PATIENT'S BIRTH DATE MM DD YY SEX M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/>									
5. PATIENT'S ADDRESS (No., Street)										6. PATIENT RELATIONSHIP TO INSURED Self <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> Child <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>									
CITY STATE ZIP CODE TELEPHONE (Include Area Code) ( )										7. INSURED'S ADDRESS (No., Street) CITY STATE ZIP CODE TELEPHONE (Include Area Code) ( )									
9. OTHER INSURED'S NAME (Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial)										10. IS PATIENT'S CONDITION RELATED TO:									
a. OTHER INSURED'S POLICY OR GROUP NUMBER										a. EMPLOYMENT? (Current or Previous) YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>									
b. Item 21A designates the primary diagnosis code as required by the CMS NCD for LAAC (20.34). One of the following ICD-10 codes are allowed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I48.0-Paroxysmal atrial fibrillation</li> <li>• I48.11-Longstanding persistent atrial fibrillation</li> <li>• I48.19-Other persistent atrial fibrillation</li> <li>• I48.20-Chronic atrial fibrillation, unspecified*</li> <li>• I48.21-Permanent atrial fibrillation</li> <li>• I48.91-Unspecified atrial fibrillation</li> </ul> *The chronic, unspecified AF code I48.20 is NOT COVERED under the NCD 20.34 for LAAC. LAAC claims reported with this diagnosis code will be denied by Medicare.										b. ACCIDENT? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> PLACE (State) YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>									
c. Item 21B designates the secondary ICD-10-CM diagnosis code Z00.6 (Encounter for examination of participant in clinical research program) to indicate the patient is participating in the LAAC registry.										c. INSURANCE PLAN NAME OR PROGRAM NAME									
d. Item 23 designates the National Clinical Trial (NCT) number for the Left Atrial Appendage Occlusion (LAAC) registry. Do not use 'CT' on the electronic claim.										d. ANOTHER HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, complete items 9, 9a, and 9d.									
12. DATE OF SERVICE MM DD YY										18. HOSPITALIZATION FROM MM DD TO MM DD									
19. ADDITIONAL CLAIM INFORMATION (Designated by NUCC)										20. OUTSIDE LAB? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>									
21. DIAGNOSIS OR NATURE OF ILLNESS OR INJURY (Use ACL to service line below (24E))										22. RESUBMISSION CODE ORIGINAL REF. NO.									
A. I480 B. Z00.6 C. D. E. F. G. H. I. J. K. L.										23. PRIOR AUTHORIZATION NUMBER CT02699957									
24. A. DATE(S) OF SERVICE From MM DD YY To MM DD YY B. PLACE OF SERVICE C. EMG D. PROCEDURES, SERVICES, OR SUPPLIES (Explain Unusual Circumstances) CPT/HCPCS MODIFIER E. DIAGNOSIS POINTER F. \$ CHARGES G. DAYS OR UNITS H. EPST Family Plan I. ID. QUAL. J. RENDERING PROVIDER ID. #																			
1 10 01 24 10 02 24 21 93656 A 1 NPI																			
2 10 01 24 10 02 24 21 33340 51 Q0 A,B 1 NPI																			
3 Item 24B designates place of service (POS) 21 for inpatient hospital as required by Medicare policy when billing CPT code 33340.										4 Item 24D designates CPT Code 93656 for the FARAPULSE™ Pulsed Field Ablation System and 33340 for the WATCHMAN™ FLX Pro LAAC Device.									
5 Item 24D designates the CPT code modifier Q0 (Investigational service provided in a clinical research study) to indicate the patient is participating in the LAAC registry.																			
6																			
Sources: 1. ICD-10-CM 2024. The complete official code set. 2. 2024 Current Procedural Terminology. American Medical Association, copyright ©2023. 3. Items 21A-21B & 24B-24D) CMS Medicare Claims Processing Transmittal 3515; Medlearn Matters Number MM9638 4. Item 23) CMS Medicare Medlearn Matters Number MM9638; Claims Processing Transmittal 2955; Atrial Appendage Occlusion Registry, clinicaltrials.gov; https://www.cms.gov/medicare/coverage/evidence/left-atrial-closure																			

SIGNED DATE a. NPI b. NPI

NUCC Instruction Manual available at: [www.nucc.or](http://www.nucc.or)



# Reimbursement Considerations for Concomitant Cardiac Ablation and LAAC: Commercial Payer Implications

## Site of Service

Unlike Medicare and Medicare Advantage plans where LAAC and therefore concomitant LAAC + AF ablation are on the “Inpatient Only” services list, commercial payers may choose to authorize and reimburse for LAAC procedures and/or concomitant AF ablation + LAAC procedures when performed in the inpatient **or outpatient** setting of care.

	Medicare FFS/MA*		Commercial	
	Inpatient (IP)	Outpatient (OP)	Inpatient (IP)	Outpatient (OP)
<b>Concomitant AF ablation + LAAC</b>	Covered	Not Covered	Potentially Covered (PA/PD required)	Potentially Covered (PA/PD required)

\*MA plans may not cover concomitant cases in an OP site of service due to LAAC IPO status in Medicare, however MA plans frequently do require prior authorization (PA) or pre-determination (PD).

## Establishing Contractually Agreed upon Reimbursement Rates for Concomitant Procedures

Hospitals will need to pursue contracting with commercial payers for concomitant AF ablation + LAAC procedures in both settings of care, despite there not being a Medicare mechanism nor any publicly available payment rate for concomitant procedures in the outpatient setting of care. It’s critical to confirm with the hospital that commercial payer contracts are updated to reflect mutually agreed-upon reimbursement frameworks and amounts for both standalone LAAC procedures as well as for concomitant procedures in either an inpatient or an outpatient site of service.

## Physician Services Payment

Like CMS, commercial payers may require use of modifiers and/or apply a multiple procedure payment reduction when a physician performs more than one procedure on the same date of service. Consult your payer reimbursement policies.

Procedure	CPT® Code	Physician Work RVUs	Total RVUs*	2025 Medicare National Rate <sup>3</sup>
PVI/AF Ablation	93656	17.00	27.72	\$897
LAAC	33340	14.00	22.87	\$740

\*Total RVUs are comprised of the physician work RVU (wRVU), practice expense RVU (PE RVU), and professional liability insurance RVU (PLI RVU).

3. CMS CY2025 Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) Final Rule: CMS 1807-F, including related PFS addenda. Conversion Factor used in calculations = \$32.3465. Effective through December 31, 2025.

## Reimbursement Considerations for Concomitant Cardiac Ablation and LAAC

Continued

### Productivity Contracting

From an employment contract perspective, it's important to understand whether wRVUs are being used to quantify physician productivity or to quantify reimbursable services. It's important that providers take time to review compensation agreements to assess if and how RVU reductions are applied along with the established reasoning and negotiate changes, as appropriate. The overall goal should be that the employer is providing an organizationally consistent opportunity for reasonable credit of work that is performed.

## National Coverage Determination (NCD 20.34)

CMS issued the final decision memo that supports a National Coverage Determination (NCD) for Medicare beneficiaries undergoing Percutaneous Left Atrial Appendage (LAAC) Closure Therapy.

**NCD 20.34 outlines specific criteria for WATCHMAN FLX LAAC Device eligibility.**

### Decision Memo for Percutaneous Left Atrial Appendage (LAA) Closure Therapy:

Using the camera on your phone, scan the QR code and visit the sites.



**CMS.gov**  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

<https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/ncacal-decision-memo.aspx?proposed=N&NCAId=281>

The criteria are highlighted below. Providers are encouraged to read the decision memo in its entirety for additional detail.

### The patient must have:

- A CHADS<sub>2</sub> score  $\geq 2$  (Congestive heart failure, Hypertension, Age  $>75$ , Diabetes, Stroke/transient ischemia attack/thrombo-embolism) or CHA<sub>2</sub>DS<sub>2</sub>-VASc score  $\geq 3$  (Congestive heart failure, Hypertension, Age  $\geq 65$ , Diabetes, Stroke/transient ischemia attack/thromboembolism, Vascular disease, Sex category)
- A formal shared decision-making interaction with an independent non-interventional physician using an evidence-based decision tool on oral anticoagulation in patients with NVAf prior to LAAC. Additionally, the shared decision-making interaction must be documented in the medical record.
- A suitability for short-term warfarin but deemed unable to take long term oral anticoagulation following the conclusion of shared decision making

## National Coverage Determination (NCD 20.34)

Continued

- The patient (preoperatively and postoperatively) is under the care of a cohesive, multidisciplinary team (MDT) of medical professionals
- The procedure must be furnished in a hospital with an established structural heart disease (SHD) and/or electrophysiology (EP) program
- The procedure must be performed by an interventional cardiologist(s), electrophysiologist(s) or cardiovascular surgeon(s) that meet the following criteria:
  - Has received training prescribed by the manufacturer on the safe and effective use of the device prior to performing LAAC; and
  - Has performed  $\geq 25$  interventional cardiac procedures that involve transseptal puncture through an intact septum; and
  - Continues to perform  $\geq 25$  interventional cardiac procedures that involve transseptal puncture through an intact septum, of which at least 12 are LAAC, over a two-year period.
- The patient is enrolled in, and the MDT and hospital must participate in a prospective, national, audited registry that:
  - 1) consecutively enrolls LAAC patients and
  - 2) tracks the annual outcomes for each patient for a period of at least four years from the time of the LAAC

### Shared Decision Making Resources

Using the camera on your phone, scan the QR code and visit the sites.



[https://www.acponline.org/patients\\_families/products/brochures/afib\\_booklet.pdf](https://www.acponline.org/patients_families/products/brochures/afib_booklet.pdf)



<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng196>



<http://www.acc.org/tools-and-practice-support/quality-programs/anticoagulation-initiative/anticoagulation-shared-decision-making-tool>

## LAAO Registry™

CMS has certified the LAAO Registry (NCT02699957) as the national registry for data collection for LAAC procedures. The long-term data collection supports CMS's coverage with evidence development (CED) to ensure better visibility of safety and effectiveness of LAAC procedures.

Hospitals performing WATCHMAN FLX FLX Pro LAAC Device procedures must contact the National Cardiovascular Data Registry (NCDR®) at [ncdr@acc.org](mailto:ncdr@acc.org) or 1-800-257-4737 to enroll in the LAAO Registry™.

Using the camera on your phone, scan the QR code and visit the sites.



[https://cvquality.acc.org/NCDR-Home/registries/hospital-registries/  
lao-registry](https://cvquality.acc.org/NCDR-Home/registries/hospital-registries/lao-registry)

## Medicare Advantage

Medicare Advantage plans are administered by Medicare Advantage Organizations (MAO). Effective as of January 1, 2024, CMS mandates that Medicare Advantage plans align their coverage and site of service with Medicare FFS guidelines. CMS implements important utilization management policy and coverage criteria protections to ensure Medicare Advantage enrollees receive the same access to medically necessary care that they would receive in Traditional Fee-for-service Medicare.

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/2024-medicare-advantage-and-part-d-final-rule-cms-4201-f>

## Medicaid

Medicaid plans vary with respect to their coverage of the WATCHMAN FLX Pro LAAC Device. You may contact the Boston Scientific Reimbursement Support Line for information regarding state-specific coverage status.

Please contact:

WATCHMAN.Reimbursement@bsci.com

## Commercial Health Insurance

Patients often obtain health insurance from their employer, or purchase through an exchange. Commercial health insurance contractually requires prior authorization before services are rendered. The Commercial Health Insurance reviews applicable data and reviews for medical necessity. Their determination is communicated to the provider and patient in writing. This process can take up to two weeks.

Commercial payers may choose to follow the NCD or establish their own policies for LAAC therapy. It is important review individual coverage policies and to seek prior authorization to establish medical necessity for WATCHMAN FLX Pro LAAC Device in advance of performing the procedure.

Please refer to the WATCHMAN Download Center for the most up-to-date list of WATCHMAN FLX Pro LAAC Device private payer coverage and for resources to support prior authorization and appeals.

Using the camera on your phone, scan the QR code and visit the sites.



<https://www.watchman.com/hcp/watchman-download-center/health-economics-and-reimbursement.html>

## Commercial Health Insurance

Continued

WATCHMAN FLX Pro LAAC Device Private Payer Coverage			
Health Plan	Primary Service Area	Health Plan	Primary Service Area
AETNA	National	BCBS of FL (Florida Blues)	FL
AmeriHealth	PA, NJ, DC	BCBS of IL	IL
Arkansas Health	AR	BCBS of Kansas	KS
Anthem	National	BCBS of Kansas City	KS
Anthem Blue Cross of California	CA	BCBS of Louisiana	LA
Anthem Blue Cross of Colorado	CO	BCBS of MA	MA, RI
Anthem Blue Cross of Connecticut	CT	BCBS of MI	MI
Anthem Blue Cross of Indiana	IN	BCBS of MN	MN
Anthem Blue Cross of Kentucky	KY	BCBS of MS	MS
Anthem Blue Cross of Maine	ME	BCBS of MT	MT
Anthem Blue Cross of Missouri	MI	BCBS of NC	NC
Anthem Blue Cross of Nevada	NV	BCBS of ND	ND
Anthem Blue Cross of New Hampshire	NH	BCBS of NM	NM
Anthem Blue Cross of Nevada	NV	BCBS of Northeast NY	NY
Anthem Blue Cross of Ohio	OH	BCBS Western NY	NY
Anthem Blue Cross of Virginia	VA	BCBS of OK	OK
Anthem Blue Cross of Wisconsin	WI	BCBS of RI	RI
AvMed	FL	BCBS of SC	SC
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia	GA	BCBS of TN	TN
Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield	NY	BCBS of TX	TX
Unicare	FL	BCBS of Wyoming	WY
BCBS of AL	AL	BCBS of Federal Employee Program	National
BCBS of AR	AR	Blue Cross ID	ID
BCBS Health Advantage	TX	Blue Shield CA	CA
BCBS of AZ	AZ	Capital Health Plan	FL

## Commercial Health Insurance

Continued

WATCHMAN FLX Pro LAAC Device Private Payer Coverage			
Health Plan	Primary Service Area	Health Plan	Primary Service Area
Capital Bluecross	PA	Health New England	MA, CT
CareFirst BCBS	DC, MD, VA	Highmark BCBS	DE, PA, WV
CareSource	OH	Horizon BCBS	NJ
Centene	National	Humana	National
Arizona Complete	AZ	Independence Blue Cross	PA
Arkansas Total	AR	LifeWise	OR, WA
Buckeye Health	OH	Medica	MN
Coordinated Care	WA	Medical Mutual of Ohio	OH
Heath Net CA	CA	Nebraska Blue	NE
Health Net OR	OR	Optima (Sentara)	VA, OH, NC, WV, FL, MD, PA, SC, GA, CA
Magnolia Health	MS	Preferred One	MN
Peach State Health	GA	Premera Blue Cross	WA, AK, OR
PA Health and Wellness	PA	Prevera 360	WI
Cigna	National	Priority Health	MI
Coordinated Care Health Plan	WA	Regence Health Plan (Regence Blue Cross Blue Shield)	IA, OH, UT, WA
Dean Health Plan	WI	Scott & White Health Plan	TX
Emblem Health	NY, CT, NJ, FL, PA, NC, MA, SC, GA, CA	Summa Health	OH, MD
Excellus	NY, CT	TriCare	National
Fallon	MA, NY, CT, FL, PA, SC	Tufts Health Plan	MA, RI, NY
Group Health	WA	UPMC	PA
Harvard Pilgrim	MA, ME, CT, NH, RI, VT, NY	United Healthcare	National
Hawaii Medical Services Association (HMSA)	HI	Univera	NY
Health Alliance of MI	MI	Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield	IA, SD

**NOTE:** Covered lives for Commercial and Federal plans is based on estimates available from Policy Reporter, and excludes those covered by Medicare Advantage plans and/or Medicaid.



## Additional Resources for Health Economics and Market Access Support

Boston Scientific's Health Economics and Market Access Team is pleased to offer a series of educational webinars to support customers in areas of coding, coverage and market access for their WATCHMAN FLX Pro LAAC Device programs. Please use the following website to register:

Using the camera on your phone, scan the QR code and visit the sites.



<https://www.watchman.com/en-us-hcp/hema-webinars.html>

**The webinar topics below are available on-demand.**

### **Coding and Claims for WATCHMAN FLX Pro LAAC Device procedure**

- Understanding WATCHMAN FLX Pro LAAC Device assigned DRGs
- Importance of Documentation
- Review of claims processing for institution and physician

### **National Coverage Determination**

- Patient eligibility criteria and shared decision-making
- Facility and Operator Requirements
- National LAAC Registry

### **Resources Supporting Prior Authorization, Appeals and Beyond**

- Best practices and tools
- Review of Boston Scientific resources
- Commercial payor landscape for WATCHMAN FLX Pro LAAC Device coverage

**Any questions regarding these webinars can be directed to  
[WATCHMAN.Reimbursement@bsci.com](mailto:WATCHMAN.Reimbursement@bsci.com)**



### **WATCHMAN FLX Pro Brief Summary**

[watchman.com/en-us-implanter/watchman-flx-pro-brief-summary.html](https://watchman.com/en-us-implanter/watchman-flx-pro-brief-summary.html)