



Congenital Heart Disease Trac

Overview

For over 30 years, LifeTrac® has been a trusted resource to the healthcare benefits industry. By leveraging our clinical expertise and provider relationships, LifeTrac offers benefits payers solutions for managing the risk of high-dollar, low-frequency, complex medical conditions and treatments. Our Congenital Heart Disease Trac provides you support and nationwide access to top medical facilities and physicians at competitive rates.



Congenital Heart Disease Trac

Congenital Heart Defect, also known as Congenital Heart Disease (CHD), is a problem with the heart structure that is present at birth and is lifelong.

Born with a Broken Heart

- CHD is the most common birth defect with 1 in 100 babies being born with CHD and is the leading cause of birth defect-related deaths.¹
- Approximately 25% of the 40,000 babies born with CHD will require life-saving intervention in the first weeks of life, often with multiple complex and costly procedures to follow.¹
- While the initial surgery may have been required in the first days of life, patients often have to undergo additional surgeries to correct the defect and still ultimately may need a heart transplant. These surgeries can be very expensive with a median cost for one surgery ranging from \$165K to \$200K.²
- Costs for inpatient surgery to repair congenital heart defects exceed \$1.9 billion annually.³

¹ Basken, Amy (Posted 2017, April 21). Pediatric Congenital Heart Association. Key CHD Facts. Retrieved from <http://conqueringchd.org/pcha-media-relations>.

² Pasquali, Sara K. et al. (2014, March) "Variation in Congenital Heart Surgery Costs Across Hospitals." *Pediatrics*. Vol.133 No.3 e553–e560. Retrieved from <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/133/3/e553>.

³ CHD Facts and Statistics. Retrieved 30 Nov. 2018 from the Children's Heart Foundation website: <http://chfn.org/resources-chd-facts/facts-statistics/>



High Risk/High Cost Requires High Quality/High Volume

Based on the type and severity of the congenital heart defect, the highly technical surgical intervention needed could come with a high risk of mortality.

- According to *U.S. News & World Report*, **26 percent of deaths – 1 out of every 4** – that occur following severe heart defect surgery **could be prevented** if the operations were performed at high-volume hospitals.⁴
- A different study demonstrated significant (up to 9-fold) variation in adjusted costs for CHD operations. Compared with high volume centers, low and medium volume centers had higher cost for the most complex procedures (e.g., the Norwood Procedure). Much of this cost variability for the Norwood Procedure was driven by the difference in length of stay (range of 31.8 days to 50.8 days) and major complications (25.3% to 50%).⁵

Carefully Selected

Our Congenital Heart Disease Trac provides you support and nationwide access to top medical facilities and physicians at negotiated rates. Facilities in the LifeTrac CHD network are determined by more than just looking at mortality rates. LifeTrac also considers the experience of the surgeon, the length of time the surgeon has been at the facility and working with the in-house teams, and the number and complexity of the cases the facility accepts. In addition to reviewing all the data, LifeTrac periodically performs site visits at the facilities to meet with the medical and surgical directors and their support teams.

The LifeTrac Difference

While CHD is complicated, navigating the process doesn't have to be. Whether surgical correction is urgent, delayed, staged or required in adulthood, our clinical and client services teams are here to help. Our clinical team has the expertise to provide clinical support to help you and your clients at each step.

Expert Support

We've done the research and make available on our website our Congenital Heart Disease Program Guide which includes links to facility CHD websites and public CHD data. Our goal is to optimize outcomes and reduce costs by getting you the information you need, when you need it, so you can select the most appropriate programs for your members.

LifeTrac can connect you with services that provide transportation, housing and pharmacy.

Let LifeTrac make difficult easier.

Contact LifeTrac today to learn how to access this Trac. (800) 968-8722



**Congenital
Heart
Disease Trac**

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CHD is the most common birth defect and is the leading cause of birth defect-related deaths.¹

26%

Approximately 1 out of 4 deaths that occur following severe heart defect surgery could be prevented if the operations were performed at high-volume hospitals.⁴

\$165,168

The median cost of a Norwood operation.⁵

⁴ *U.S. News & World Report*. (2017, June 21). One in Four Deaths After Congenital Heart Surgery Could Be Prevented, According to U.S. News Analysis. Retrieved from <https://www.usnews.com/info/blogs/press-room/articles/2017-06-21/one-in-four-deaths-after-congenital-heart-surgery-could-be-prevented-according-to-us-news-analysis>.

⁵ Pasquali, Sara K. et al. (2014, March) "Variation in Congenital Heart Surgery Costs Across Hospitals." *Pediatrics* Vol.133 No.3 e553–e560. Retrieved from <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/133/3/e553>.