Volume Results
Procedure Descriptions & Table Notes

Procedure Descriptions

Cardiac ablation is used to treat an abnormal heartbeat (e.g., atrial fibrillation) by applying energy (heat or cold) to create small scars in the heart tissue to block the irregular heartbeat. Ablation can be done during other heart surgery or with a catheter (thin tube) inserted into a large blood vessel of the upper thigh or arm and threaded to the heart.

Cardioversion is used to treat an abnormal heartbeat (e.g., atrial fibrillation) by delivering quick, low-energy electrical shocks to the chest to restore a regular heartbeat.

Coronary artery bypass graft (**CABG**) surgery is used to treat a blockage in a coronary artery by creating an alternate pathway for the blood to flow to vital heart muscle. CABG is typically recommended for severe or complex blockages that are not treatable by other methods.

Defibrillator implantation is used to detect and treat an abnormal heartbeat (e.g., ventricular tachycardia) by delivering low-energy electrical shocks directly to the heart muscle. A small battery-powered device (defibrillator) is placed in the chest and leads (wires) are threaded from the device to the heart through a blood vessel.

Left atrial appendage closure is a procedure that blocks or closes the natural opening of a small sac in the left atrium (top left chamber of the heart) to reduce the risk of stroke in patients with an abnormal heartbeat (e.g., atrial fibrillation). This procedure can be done during other heart surgery or through a catheter (thin tube) inserted into a large blood vessel of the upper thigh and threaded to the heart.

Mitral valve procedure is used to treat mitral valve stenosis (narrowing or stiffening) or regurgitation (abnormal backflow or leaking of blood) and restore blood flow within the heart. Treatment options include surgical procedures to repair or replace the diseased valve or catheter-based procedures (thin tube inserted into a large blood vessel) to repair or widen the mitral valve.

Pacemaker implantation is used to detect and treat a slow or abnormal heartbeat by sending an electrical signal directly to the heart muscle. A small battery-powered device (pacemaker) is placed in the chest and leads (wires) are threaded from the device to the heart through a blood vessel. A leadless pacemaker (small, one-piece device) may also be a treatment option. A catheter (thin tube) is inserted into a large blood vessel of the upper thigh, and the entire device is threaded to the heart.

Percutaneous coronary intervention (**PCI**) procedures are used to open a narrowed or blocked coronary (heart) artery to restore blood flow to the heart muscle. A catheter (thin tube) is inserted into a large blood vessel of the upper thigh or arm and threaded to the heart where a small balloon at the end of the catheter is inflated at the area of disease. A stent (permanent metallic mesh tube) is often placed at the site to prevent restenosis (re-narrowing of the same area of the artery).

Surgical aortic valve replacement (**SAVR**) is used to treat aortic valve stenosis (narrowing or stiffening) or regurgitation (abnormal backflow or leaking of blood) and restore blood flow from the heart to the body. The aortic valve is replaced with an artificial (mechanical) or biological tissue (animal or human) valve.

Transcatheter aortic valve replacement (**TAVR**) is used to treat aortic valve stenosis (narrowing of the aortic valve caused by stiffness and thickening) and restore blood flow from the heart to the body. A catheter (thin tube) is inserted into a large blood vessel, most often in the upper thigh, and threaded to the heart where a biological tissue (animal) valve is pressed or expanded into the area of the diseased aortic heart valve.

Tricuspid valve procedure is used to treat tricuspid valve stenosis (narrowing or stiffening) or regurgitation (abnormal backflow or leaking of blood) and restore blood flow within the heart. Treatment options most commonly include surgical procedures to repair or replace the diseased valve. Catheter-based procedures (thin tube inserted into a large blood vessel) may also be used.

Table Notes

Measures Reported in the Volume Results

Total Number of Cases represents inpatient cases and outpatient cases, where applicable, for patients 18 years and older who underwent the procedure. Note that number of inpatient cases reported in the **Volume Results** section of the report is often higher than the number of cases displayed in the **Hospital Results** section where only cases used to report outcome measures are included.

Inpatient Cases represent the total number of cases performed in a Pennsylvania inpatient acute care hospital.

Outpatient Cases represent the total number of cases performed in a Pennsylvania hospital outpatient department or ambulatory surgery center.

*See **About the Report** and **Technical Notes** for further details.*