

**Title:** Vagus Nerve Stimulation (VNS) for Treatment Resistant Depression (TRD) (CAG-00313R2)

**Decision:** The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) is expanding Medicare coverage for Vagus Nerve Stimulation (VNS) for Treatment Resistant Depression (TRD). CMS will cover FDA-approved VNS devices for treatment resistant depression through Coverage with Evidence Development (CED) when offered in a CMS-approved study.

**What this means:** VNS for Treatment Resistant Depression (TRD) may be covered only for members enrolled in a CMS-approved clinical study. VNS is not covered for the treatment of TRD when furnished outside of a CMS-approved study. Please refer to the final decision memo for all coverage criteria.

**Effective:** February 15, 2019

This announcement can be found at: [Decision Memo for Vagus Nerve Stimulation \(VNS\) for Treatment Resistant Depression \(TRD\) \(CAG-00313R2\)](#)

HealthPartners is a health plan that contracts with both Medicare and the Minnesota Medical Assistance (Medicaid) program to provide benefits of both programs to enrollees. HealthPartners is also a Cost plan and PPO plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in HealthPartners depends on contract renewal. HealthPartners UnityPoint Health is a PPO plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in HealthPartners UnityPoint Health depends on contract renewal.

H2462\_90242 IR Approved 06/2015  
H3416\_90242 IR Approved 06/2017  
H2422\_90242 IR Approved 07/2015  
H4882\_90242 IR Approved 03/2018