Eligibility criteria for left atrial appendage occlusion

Southern Cross will only reimburse the cost of a left atrial appendage occlusion under a member’s policy when all the following criteria are met:

1. The patient has non-valvular atrial fibrillation

2. High risk of stroke defined as CHADS-VASc ≥ 3

3. Contraindication to long term anticoagulation, which is as defined meeting one of these categories:

   a) Bleeding risk:
   - Previous life-threatening bleeding
   - Chronic anemia secondary to bleeding requiring blood transfusion
   - Specialist assessment identifying relevant bleeding risk and confirming contraindication for oral anticoagulants (OAC) or novel oral anticoagulants (NOAC) (most commonly intracranial bleeding risk)

   b) Stroke or embolic event
   - Recurrent left atrial appendage thrombus, in spite of:
   - Treatment with OAC (warfarin)
   - Treatment with NOAC (dabigatran)

   c) Drug intolerance:
   - Intolerance affecting activities of daily living
   - Adequate trial of OAC (warfarin)
   - Adequate trial of NOAC (dabigatran)