The Baylor Annette C. and Harold C. Simmons Transplant Institute Cardiothoracic Transplantation and Ventricular Assist Device (VAD) Program is dedicated to improving survival and quality of life for patients with advanced heart failure. The VAD program offers treatment for patients experiencing advanced heart failure who are waiting for heart transplants or may not be eligible for one. This program provides continuity of care during treatment. Studies have shown that VAD programs, such as Baylor's Ventricular Assist Device program, afford improved patient outcome.

Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas was the nation’s first hospital to receive the Gold Seal of Approval™ from The Joint Commission for the Ventricular Assist Device program, an accreditation that is renewed every two years.

Following are indications and contraindications for the Cardiothoracic Transplantation and Ventricular Assist Device Program.

**Indications for Cardiothoracic Transplantation:**
- New York Heart Association (NYHA) Class IV or NYHA Class III on maximal medical therapy
- VO$_2$ Max $\leq$ 14
- Intractable life-threatening arrhythmias
- Intractable angina not amenable to revascularization

Clinical experience has shown life expectancy of patients with the above-mentioned parameters to be less than a year from the time of evaluation.
Absolute Contraindications:
- Systemic incurable disease such as malignancy, myeloproliferative disease, etc.
- Active infection
- Severe pulmonary hypertension (Pulmonary Vascular Resistance [PVR] >6 Wood units not amenable to pharmacological intervention)
- Severe intracranial cerebrovascular disease
- Severe and irreversible hepatic and renal dysfunction (unless the candidate is for multiorgan transplant)

Relative Contraindications:
- Age greater than 69 years, however, physiological age is more important than chronological age. Patients who are over 69 years of age can be considered in the absence of other medical problems.
- Malignancy (if occurrence of cancer is greater than 5 years, and subject to oncology consultation)
- Recent and unresolved pulmonary infarction
- History of psychiatric illness, drug alcohol abuse, and compliance issues, subject to psychiatric consultation
- Peripheral Vascular Disease (PVD) is subject to vascular consultation and surgical intervention
- Diabetic history of greater than 10 years with accompanying complications or organ damage
- Active tobacco abuse (documented abstinence for 6 months is mandatory)
- Obesity (greater than 130% of ideal body weight)
- Malignancy
- BMI >39
- Other systemic diseases are subject to consultation with appropriate specialist
- Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) positive

If you have a patient that may benefit from a heart transplant and/or VAD, Baylor University Medical Center provides a VAD education class that is free. Potential candidates may register by calling 1.800.4Baylor or visit online at BaylorHealth.com/VAD.

To make a referral for heart transplantation or VAD, please call 877.634.0028.