A CELERIAN GROUP COMPANY

NEGATIVE PRESSURE WOUND THERAPY
Revised October 2024

We IMPACT lives.

Dear Physician,

The Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractors (DME MACs) process claims and perform medical review for durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS) provided to Medicare beneficiaries. It is your responsibility as the ordering practitioner to determine and document the medical need for all healthcare services.

For any DMEPOS item to be covered by Medicare, the patient's medical record must contain sufficient information about the patient's medical condition(s) to support the need for the type and quantity of items ordered and for replacement (if applicable). The information should include the patient's diagnosis and other pertinent information, such as duration of the patient's condition, clinical course (worsening or improvement), prognosis, nature and extent of functional limitation, other therapeutic interventions and results, and past experience with related items. For selected claims, the DME MACs, Unified Program Integrity Contractors (UPICs), or other contractors may request that the supplier obtain this information from you in order to verify that Medicare coverage criteria have been met.

These documentation requirements apply to the medical need for the Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (NPWT) to continue into a fourth month and beyond. Information from the treating practitioner's medical record, contemporaneous with each requested one-month treatment time period extension, must be submitted with each appeal explaining the special circumstances necessitating the extended month of therapy.

The local coverage determination (LCD) provides coverage for the use of NPWT limited to initiating healing of the problem wounds described in the "Coverage Indications, Limitations, and/or Medical Necessity" section of the related LCD, rather than continuation of therapy to complete healing, since there is no published medical literature demonstrating evidence of a clinical benefit for the use of NPWT to complete wound healing. Therefore, general, vague, or nonspecific statements in the medical record such as "doing well, want to continue until healed" provide insufficient information to justify the need for extension of treatment.

The medical record must provide specific and detailed information to explain the continuing problems with the wound, what additional measures are being undertaken to address those problems and promote healing, and why a switch to alternative treatments alone is not possible.

Help your DMEPOS supplier continue to provide good service to your patients by promptly providing the information from your medical records that is requested.

Sincerely,

Smitha M. Ballyamanda MD, CAQSM
Medical Director, DME MAC, Jurisdiction A
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC

Robert D. Hoover, Jr., MD, MPH, FACP
Medical Director, DME MAC, Jurisdiction C
CGS Administrators, LLC

Sunil V. Lalla, MD, FACS, CPC
Medical Director, DME MAC, Jurisdiction B
CGS Administrators, LLC

Angela S. Jenny, DO, DABFM
Medical Director, DME MAC, Jurisdiction D
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC

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