Dear Physician,

Medicare doesn't pay for equipment that you've ordered for your Medicare patient if isn't being used. Unfortunately, medical records from office visits often fail to mention that a patient continues to use home medical equipment such as a hospital bed, continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) equipment or nebulizer. This is understandable since in some cases, the patient may have been using the equipment for several months or even years. However, it is necessary to document that the equipment continues to be used in order to obtain supplies for that equipment. One easy way to accomplish this is to include medical equipment that you've ordered for your patient on their medication list.

Many "model charts" from various clinical organizations recommend maintenance of a medication list that indicates the medication(s), strength, dosing schedule, and what the patient is actually taking. At each visit, the date of the visit is recorded, and notations are made regarding the patient's adherence with each medication. In addition to the patient's current medications, items of durable medical equipment (DME) can also be incorporated into the list. Hospital beds, respiratory equipment (such as nebulizers, CPAP, and oxygen), and diabetes testing equipment and supplies are just some of the types of DME that can be monitored through this use of an "expanded" medication list. At each visit, just like with the medication list review, one can also note whether or not the patient continues to use their DME, ask if any additional supplies need to be ordered or refilled and how often they're using the item, in the case of equipment such as glucose monitors or CPAP machines.

In the event of a record request from the medical equipment supplier to demonstrate continued usage, this Equipment/Medication List can be provided to support your patient's claim for Medicare coverage.

Thank you for your cooperation and your care of Medicare patients.

Sincerely,

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