

Healthcare Resources NW

OPERATIONS POLICY

Policy: 729

Page 1 of 2

SECTION: Care Management

SUBJECT: Durable Medical Equipment (DME) for Capitated Plans Only

POLICY:

1. HRNW Care Management (CM) is committed to the assignment of medically necessary and cost appropriate durable medical equipment to Members for the purpose of providing comprehensive healthcare services.
2. The CM staff authorizes and monitors the necessity and appropriateness of DME and supply usage by Members according to the Member's eligibility and benefits.
3. Contracted Providers will supply the DME directly to the Members (except in rare circumstances).
4. This policy and procedure also applies to corrective appliances, prosthetics, and associated medical supplies and equipment.

PROCESS:

1. The Member's need for DME and medical supplies is identified by the CM staff.
2. DME and Health Plan eligibility and guidelines are applied to determine if the criteria are met for the appropriate assignment of the equipment and supplies. Medicare National Coverage Determinations (NCD), Medicare Local Coverage Determinations (LCD), Health Plan specific guidelines Milliman (MCG)
3. Alternative methods for providing effective, high quality and more cost efficient services are explored and pursued as appropriate.
4. The Member's need for the DME or supplies is evaluated according to diagnosis, prognosis, reason that the equipment or supplies are needed, the length of time of the need and the plan for home treatment.
5. If it is determined that the Member does need the DME or supplies, the referral/ authorization process is followed.
6. Short-term authorizations typically are specified in number of days or weeks.
7. Long-term authorizations typically are made for one to three month/s at a time. The care management staff conducts monthly assessments of the Member's eligibility and benefits, and of the cost of the equipment (to ensure that rental cost does not exceed purchase price). This process will be coordinated with the CM staff.

8. The Member's need for DME or supplies is monitored, and the CM staff assists in the process of discontinuing the service as soon as it is appropriate.
9. The following items may be provided by Adventist Home Health DME/Tuality Home Health DME without authorization:
 - Nebulizers
 - Standard FWW (and platform attachments as medically necessary)
 - CPAP supplies (masks, tubing, filters, and humidifiers)
 - TENS supplies
 - Canes
 - Crutches
 - Oxygen for long-term use when ordered by PCP or Portland Lung Institute Physicians
 - Geo cushions
 - Tracheostomy supplies for room air or oxygen dependence
 - Suction machine supplies
10. The following items may be provided by in-network DME Provider without authorization when ordered by PCP or in-network specialist with a valid auth at time of service:
 - Surgical boot also known as ambulatory boot
 - Ostomy supplies
 - Wound care supplies
 - Suction machine supplies
 - Diabetic supplies (exception: Insulin infusion and wound vacuum pumps)
12. HRNW will continue to pre-authorize the following items:
 - Commodes
 - Short-term oxygen (e.g. for pneumonia)
 - Specialty walkers
 - ROHO cushions
 - CPAP devices
 - TENS units
 - Wheelchairs/Accessories
 - Hospital beds
 - Seat lift mechanisms
 - Pressure reducing surfaces

Effective: July 1996

Reviewed: 5/10, 5/11, 3/13, 12/13

Revised: 5/03, 5/05, 3/06, 4/07, 6/08, 5/09, 2/10, 2/12, 2/13, 2/13, 9/13, 12/13

Author: S. Strand, L. Colburn