

PROVIDER BULLETIN

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DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

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This bulletin provides additional information and clarification to the Physician and Durable Medical Equipment Bulletin, [Volume 30, Number 67](#), dated July 2, 2008 regarding coverage criteria for home oxygen therapy.

HOME OXYGEN THERAPY COVERAGE CRITERIA FOR CHILDREN UNDER AGE 21

The following home oxygen therapy coverage criteria for children under the age of 21 will be implemented effective November 13, 2008:

1. The treating physician has determined that the patient has a severe lung disease or hypoxia-related symptoms that might be expected to improve with oxygen therapy; and
2. Alternative treatment measures have been tried or considered and deemed clinically ineffective or inappropriate; and,
3. One of the following:
 - A. A qualifying blood gas study at or below 92% oxygen saturation taken at rest or sleep; or
 - B. Patient is oxygen dependent upon discharge from inpatient stay; or
 - C. Patient is age 2 or under and stand-by oxygen is ordered by a pediatric pulmonologist.

Initial coverage for patients meeting criterion 3A is limited to 12 months with possible subsequent recertification for lifetime. Coverage for patients meeting criterion 3B or 3C is limited to 90 days.

PRE-CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

As stated in the Physician and Durable Medical Equipment Bulletin, [Volume 30, Number 67](#), dated July 2, 2008, home oxygen therapy services require pre-certification. A prescriber or DME provider may request a MO HealthNet Call Center representative contact them regarding any pre-certification request that does not meet the criteria established through the automated process. The request for contact may be initiated by clicking the appropriate box in CyberAccess™. Prescribers and DME Providers may also contact the call center directly at 800-392-8030.

BLOOD GAS STUDY CLARIFICATION

The term "blood gas study" utilized in the policy published in the Physician and Durable Medical Equipment Bulletin, [Volume 30, Number 67](#), dated July 2, 2008 refers to either an arterial blood gas (ABG) test or an oximetry test (as defined by Medicare). An ABG is the direct measurement of the partial pressure of oxygen (PO₂) on a sample of arterial blood. The PO₂ is reported as mm Hg. An oximetry test is the indirect measurement of arterial oxygen saturation using a sensor on the ear, finger or toe. The saturation is reported as a percent.

Provider Bulletins are available on the MO HealthNet Division (MHD) (Formerly the Division of Medical Services) Web site at <http://dss.mo.gov/mhd/providers/pages/bulletins.htm>. Bulletins will remain on the Provider Bulletins page only until incorporated into the [provider manuals](#) as appropriate, then moved to the Archived Bulletin page.

MO HealthNet News: Providers and other interested parties are urged to go to the MHD Web site at <http://dss.missouri.gov/mhd/global/pages/mednewssubscribe.htm> to subscribe to the electronic mailing list to receive automatic notifications of provider bulletins, provider manual updates, and other official MO HealthNet communications via E-mail.

MO HealthNet Managed Care: The information contained in this bulletin applies to coverage for:

- MO HealthNet Fee-for-Service
- Services not included in MO HealthNet Managed Care

Questions regarding MO HealthNet Managed Care benefits should be directed to the patient's MO HealthNet Managed Care health plan. Before delivering a service, please check the patient's eligibility status by swiping the red MO HealthNet card or by calling the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System at 573-635-8908 and using Option One for the red or white card.

Provider Communications Hotline
573-751-2896