



EFFECTIVE DATE: 10|01|2015
POLICY LAST UPDATED: 06|11|2022

OVERVIEW

This policy documents the prior authorization request process for durable medical equipment (DME).

MEDICAL CRITERIA

Generally, InterQual criteria is used to determine medical necessity and is found in the online authorization tool. Medical necessity criteria from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) National and Local Coverage Determinations (NCD/LCD) is used when applicable for Medicare Advantage Members to determine medical necessity of services and is found in the online authorization tool. However, for those policies specifically listed in the Related Policies section of this policy, BCBSRI medical criteria is used.

For Medicare Advantage Plans, medical necessity criteria can be found in associated CMS National and Local Coverage Determinations.

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Prior authorization is required for Medicare Advantage Plans and recommended for Commercial products.

POLICY STATEMENT

Medicare Advantage Plans and Commercial Products

Durable medical equipment is considered medically necessary when the criteria in the BCBSRI online authorization tool has been met.

Requests for DME should be obtained via the BCBSRI online prior authorization tool, which is available only to participating providers. All other providers should fax the request to Utilization Management at (401) 272-8885 to complete the prior authorization process. Please see reference to the items requiring prior authorization through the online tool below.

<https://www.bcbsri.com/BCBSRIWeb/Login.do?redirectTo=/providers/preauth/preauthProviderOverview.jsp>

COVERAGE

Benefits may vary between groups/contracts. Please refer to the appropriate Benefit Booklet, Evidence of Coverage, or Subscriber Agreement for applicable Medical Equipment, Medical Supplies and Prosthetic Devices coverage/benefits.

BACKGROUND

Not applicable

CODING

The following HCPCS codes require Prior Authorization:

Medicare Advantage Plans

In some instances, noted below, the National or Local Coverage Determinations need to be referenced for medical criteria.

Commercial Products

The following list is intended to identify items that require prior authorization. The absence of a code from the list does not imply coverage. Subscriber Agreements should be referenced.

For any service in which authorization requirements differ between Medicare Advantage Plans and Commercial Products, please refer to the following applicable resources for coverage for Medicare Advantage Plans. See also Related Policies Section.

- National Coverage Determination
- Local Coverage Determination from Noridian Healthcare Solutions, Jurisdiction A
- Noridian Healthcare Solutions, Jurisdiction A Noncovered Items

Please see 2022 updates in bold in the list below.

Air Fluidized Bed

E0194

Artificial Pancreas Device System

E0787, S1034, S1036, S1037

Bone Growth Stimulators

E0747, E0748, E0760

Breast Pump, Hospital Grade, Electric

E0604

Effective 8/1/2022, authorization no longer required.

Cardioverter Defibrillator, Wearable (WCD)

K0606, K0608

Continuous Passive Motion Device (CPM), Upper Extremity

Commercial Only: E0936

Functional Neuromuscular Electrical Stimulation

Medicare Only: E0764, E0770

Hospital Beds and Cribs

Commercial Only: E0265, E0266, E0296, E0297

Medical Food

Commercial Only: S9433, S9434, S9435

See Oral Nutrition Mandate for Claims Submission Form.

Non-Wearable Automatic External Defibrillator

Medicare Only: E0617

Orthoses, Upper Extremity

Commercial Only: E1800, E1802, E1805, E1825

Pneumatic Compression Devices

Medicare Advantage Plans and Commercial Products: E0650, E0651, E0652, E0655, E0657, E0660, E0665, E0666, E0667, E0668, E0669, E0670, E0671, E0672, E0673

Commercial Products Only: E0676

Medicare Advantage Plans: Please refer to the resources above for coverage of E0676.

Power Operated Vehicles (Scooters)

Medicare Advantage Plans and Commercial Products: K0800, K0801, K0802, K0812

Commercial Products Only: K0806, K0807, K0808

Medicare Advantage Plans: Please refer to the resources above for coverage of K0806, K0807, K0808.

Power Wheelchairs

Medicare Advantage Plans and Commercial Products: K0013, K0814, K0815, K0816, K0820, K0821, K0822, K0823, K0824, K0825, K0826, K0827, K0828, K0829, K0835, K0836, K0837, K0838, K0839, K0840, K0841, K0842, K0843, K0848, K0849, K0850, K0851, K0852, K0853, K0854, K0855, K0856, K0857, K0858, K0859, K0860, K0861, K0862, K0863, K0864, K0890, K0891

Commercial Products Only: K0868, K0869, K0870, K0871, K0877, K0878, K0879, K0880, K0884, K0885, K0886

Medicare Advantage Plans: Please refer to the resources above for coverage of K0868, K0869, K0870, K0871, K0877, K0878, K0879, K0880, K0884, K0885, K0886.

Prosthetic Devices

L2006, L5610, L5613, L5614, L5722, L5724, L5726, L5728, L5780, L5814, L5822, L5824, L5826, L5828, L5830, L5840, L5848, L5856, L5857, L5858, L5859, L5930, L5961, L5973, L5976, L5979, L5980, L5981, L5982, L5984, L5985, L5986, L5987

Seat Lift Mechanism

E0627

Secretion Clearance Devices

Medicare Advantage Plans and Commercial Products: E0480, E0483

Commercial Products Only: E0481, E0484

Medicare Advantage Plans: Please refer to the resources above for coverage of E0481. E0484 does not require prior authorization.

Speech Generating Devices (SGD)

E2500, E2502, E2504, E2506, E2508, E2510, E2511, E2512

Support Surfaces

E0181, E0184, E0185, E0186, E0187, E0188, E0189, E0193, E0196, E0197, E0198, E0199, E0277, E0371, E0372, E0373

Wheels or Wheelchairs, Power-Assist

Medicare Advantage Plans and Commercial Products: E0986

Commercial Products Only: E0983, E0984

Medicare Advantage Plans: Please refer to the resources above for coverage of E0983, E0984.

RELATED POLICIES

Artificial Pancreas Device System

Medicare Advantage Plans National and Local Coverage Determinations

Functional Neuromuscular Electrical Stimulation

Non-Wearable Automatic External Defibrillators (AED)

Oral Nutrition Mandate (for claims submission form)

PUBLISHED

Provider Update, August 2022
Provider Update, June 2021
Provider Update, November 2020
Provider Update, March 2020
Provider Update, February 2019

REFERENCES

Noridian Healthcare Solutions. Noncovered Items:
<https://med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jadme/topics/noncovered-items>

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