OVERVIEW
Home spirometry devices allow for the monitoring of pulmonary function in the home. Their primary proposed use is by lung transplant recipients to aid in the early diagnosis of infection and rejection. They can potentially also be used in other situations that require pulmonary function monitoring.

MEDICAL CRITERIA
Not applicable

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION
Not applicable

POLICY STATEMENT
BlueCHiP for Medicare
Home spirometry is not covered as the evidence is insufficient to determine the effects of the technology on health outcomes.

Commercial Products
Home spirometry is considered not medically necessary as the evidence is insufficient to determine the effects of the technology on health outcomes.

COVERAGE
Benefits may vary between groups/contracts. Please refer to the appropriate section of the Benefit Booklet, Evidence of Coverage or Subscriber Agreement for not medically necessary/not covered benefits/coverage.

BACKGROUND
In the immediate post-operative period, lung transplant recipients must be carefully monitored for the development of either rejection episodes or infectious complications. Monitoring techniques include complete pulmonary function testing, serial chest X-rays, bronchioalveolar lavage, and transbronchial biopsy. Transbronchial biopsy is thought to be the only objective method of distinguishing between these 2 common complications. Transbronchial biopsy is typically performed on a routine schedule, with additional biopsies performed if the patient becomes symptomatic. Home spirometry is proposed as a technique to provide daily monitoring to promptly identify presymptomatic patients who may benefit from a diagnostic transbronchial biopsy.

Home spirometry uses battery-operated spirometers that permit regular daily measurement of pulmonary function in the home, typically forced expiratory volume in 1 second (FEV-1) and forced vital capacity (FVC). The device has been primarily investigated among lung transplant recipients as a technique to provide early diagnosis of infection and rejection. Home spirometry may also be referred to as ambulatory spirometry.

There are few studies on home spirometry use and most of the available literature did not evaluate the impact of home spirometry use on health outcomes. The evidence is insufficient that home spirometry improves the net health outcome and, thus, the technology is considered not medically necessary.
CODING
BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercial Products
The following codes are not covered for BlueCHiP for Medicare and not medically necessary for Commercial Products:

94014  Patient-initiated spirometric recording per 30-day period of time; includes reinforced education, transmission of spirometric tracing, data capture, analysis of transmitted data, periodic recalibration and physician review and interpretation

94015  Patient-initiated spirometric recording per 30-day period of time; recording (includes hook-up, reinforced education, data transmission, data capture, trend analysis, and periodic recalibration)

94016  Patient-initiated spirometric recording per 30-day period of time; physician review and interpretation only

RELATED POLICIES
Not applicable

PUBLISHED
Provider Update, June 2020
Provider Update, August 2019
Provider Update, May 2018
Provider Update, May 2017
Provider Update, May 2016
Provider Update, November 2015

REFERENCES