



CIGNA HealthCare
Medicare Administration

July 1, 2004

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Steven K. Stranne, MD, JD
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RE: CPAP Accessory Questions

Dear Dr. Stranne:

Thank you for your inquiry of June 15, 2004 in which you asked about billing and reimbursement for replacement cushions and pillows for nasal application devices (HCPCS codes A7032 and A7033, respectively) under the Durable Medical Equipment Regional Carrier (DMERC) continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) local coverage determination (LCD). Specifically, you asked for clarification on two issues and we will address each in the order presented.

1. Can nasal cushions and/or pillows be billed separately from the nasal interface (A7034) and headgear (A7035) at the time of initial issue?

Answer: No. Upon initial issue, the headgear and/or nasal interface are expected to be "complete" accessories, which include the nasal cushions or pillows. Nasal cushions and/or pillows would only be separately reimbursable when billed as a replacement for the original items dispensed at initial issue.

2. Can a supplier receive separate reimbursement for an additional set of replacement nasal cushions or pillows dispensed at the time of initial issue of a CPAP mask?

Answer: Yes. An extra set of nasal cushions/pillows may be dispensed and separately reimbursed at the time of initial issue of the device since these items have a short replacement frequency cycle.

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Your letter also asks a general question about tubing, filters and other replacement parts that might be possible to dispense at initial issue. As a general rule with this policy, the DMERC will allow suppliers to dispense extra items that have a short replacement frequency cycle (e.g., less than 3 months), consistent with the frequency parameters outlined in the CPAP LCD. Conversely, an extra item with a replacement frequency of 3 months or more should not be dispensed at initial issue..

I trust this information is helpful. Please feel free to contact us again should you have further questions.

Sincerely,

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