



# Helpful hints for filing

## Durable medical equipment (DME), miscellaneous HCPCS Code E1399

### Overview

The following information provides general guidelines regarding the use of miscellaneous HCPCS code E1399 (durable medical equipment, miscellaneous). For information regarding specific reimbursement guidelines including coding, coverage, and payment, please consult your local payer. Please review your supplier manual, or contact your DME MAC medical director or provider helpline. For an item to be covered by Medicare, the following conditions apply: (1) item must be eligible for a defined Medicare benefit category; (2) item must be reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of illness or injury or to improve the malfunctioning of a malformed body member; (3) the item must meet all applicable Medicare statutory and regulatory requirements; and (4) the equipment is used in the patient's home.

### Medical necessity/reasonableness

In cases where a more specific HCPCS code is not available, a product may be billed using **E1399**, durable medical equipment, miscellaneous. In order for durable medical equipment to be covered or reimbursed in the home, many third-party payers require the equipment to be:

- (1) Prescribed by a physician
- (2) Durable
- (3) Medically reasonable and necessary

Sometimes third-party payers believe that an item provided to a client is not “medically necessary” or “reasonable” for treating the patient’s condition. In this case, payment for the equipment may be denied. During a “medical necessity” check, claims for equipment may be turned down because:

- Performance of the therapeutic function is questioned
- Equipment is thought to provide only partial therapeutic benefit
- The equipment substantially exceeds what is needed for treatment; it is felt to be too elaborate or expensive

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### Check for “medical necessity”

A physician’s order and/or documentation of medical necessity needs to be completed and signed by the physician for **every** DME claim. The physician order or documentation of medical necessity must include at minimum:

- Patient’s diagnosis
- Patient’s prognosis (care plan)
- Clinical need for the equipment/therapy
- Duration of medical need, typically in months (six months or more duration often receives special review)

Be sure to include product literature as a description of the equipment and any instructions for intended use/indications. Any available clinical studies are also helpful in providing a detailed description of the clinical application of the item. Administrative information, such as the suggested retail cost of the item, the supplier ID, address, and telephone number are also necessary.

### Check for “medical necessity”

Claims can be denied if any of the following statements are true:

- Cost of the item outweighs the benefits
- Expense is “clearly disproportionate”
- This alternative is not medically appropriate and/or reasonably easy to provide
- The patient already has a device that has the same purpose

*Note: Inclusion or exclusion of a procedure code for a specific product or supply does not imply any health insurance coverage or reimbursement policy. All referenced information and codes were taken from HCPCS. Please refer to the DMEPOS Supplier Manual for complete explanations.*

This information should not be considered to be either legal or reimbursement advice. Given the rapid and constant change in public and private reimbursement, Philips Respironics cannot guarantee the accuracy or timeliness of this information and urges you to seek your own counsel and experts for guidance related to reimbursement, including coverage, coding and payment.

### For more information from Philips Respironics

Reimbursement	Customer service	Website
Information & fee schedules Educational materials & questions (coding, coverage and payment)	1-800-345-6443; listen to the instructions and follow prompts to select the insurance reimbursement information option	<a href="http://www.philips.com/respironics">www.philips.com/respironics</a>

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CAUTION: US federal law restricts these devices to sale by or on the order of a physician.

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