



Helpful hints for filing

Threshold IMT (inspiratory muscle trainer) Threshold PEP (positive expiratory pressure)

Product description

The **Threshold IMT** provides consistent and specific pressure for inspiratory muscle strength and endurance training for patients regardless of how quickly or slowly a person is breathing. This device incorporates a flow-independent, one-way valve to ensure consistent resistance, and features an adjustable specific pressure setting to be set by a healthcare professional. When patients inhale through the Threshold IMT, a spring-loaded valve provides a resistance that exercises respiratory muscles through conditioning.

- Step one – Patients inhale through the IMT device and resistance is provided by a spring-loaded valve.
- Step two – This action is repeated to condition and develop muscle strength.

The **Threshold PEP** provides consistent and specific pressure for airway clearance bronchial hygiene, or as an alternative to chest physical therapy. This device, much like the IMT, incorporates a flow-independent, one-way valve to ensure consistent resistance and features an adjustable pressure setting. When patients exhale through the Threshold PEP, the resistive load creates positive pressure that helps open the airways and allows mucus to be expelled during “huff” coughing (forced expiratory technique).

- Step one – Patients exhale through the PEP device and resistance is provided by a spring-loaded valve.
- Step two – This forced pressure opens the airways and helps mobilize secretions.

Site of service

Home

In cases where a more specific HCPCS code is not available, these products 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. Medically necessary
3. Durable

Suggested documentation for claim submission and medical records include:

- Product literature (description of the equipment)
- Instructions for intended use/indications
- A physician's prescription
- Administrative information (including suggested retail cost of the item, supplier ID, address and telephone number)
- Clinical studies, which are helpful for providing a detailed description of the clinical application of the item

Physician's office

The use of the IMT and PEP devices may be reported using **CPT code 94799, unlisted pulmonary service or procedure**.¹

Suggested documentation for claim submission and medical records include:

- Description of the procedure
- Description of medical need for the procedure
- Description of the patient's symptoms, concurrent problems, and follow-up care
- Documentation of the time, effort, and equipment required

Outpatient hospital

Medicare currently reimburses services performed in the outpatient hospital setting through a prospective payment system called the Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS). Under this payment system, services and supplies of clinical similarity are classified into groups called Ambulatory Payment Classifications (APCs). Each APC has an established payment rate. Depending upon the services and supplies provided, the hospital may receive more than one APC payment per patient encounter. Because services and supplies vary per encounter, the APC group that the Threshold IMT or PEP falls into may vary. One of the most common groups for the Threshold IMT or PEP would be **APC 0367-level I pulmonary test**. The average payment associated with this APC group for 2010 is \$40.58. The use of the PEP or IMT should be reported on the claim form using the most appropriate CPT code for the service. In the case of the PEP or IMT, an example of an appropriate CPT code would be **94799, unlisted pulmonary service or procedure**.

Inpatient hospital

For services and supplies used in the hospital inpatient setting, Medicare bases payment on prospectively set rates, referred to as the Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS). Under the IPPS, each case is categorized into a Medicare Severity Diagnosis-Related Group (MS-DRG) based on the patient's diagnosis and primary procedures performed. Supplies should be reported using the most appropriate HCPCS code. This code would be **E1399, durable medical equipment, miscellaneous**, for the Threshold IMT or PEP. Procedures and diagnoses are reported using ICD-9-CM diagnosis codes.

Sample ICD-9 procedure codes

- 93.18 – Breathing exercise
- 93.99 – Other respiratory procedures

¹Current Procedural Terminology (CPT), Fourth Edition, 2010. ©2010, American Medical Association.

Skilled nursing facility

Skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) are reimbursed through a prospective payment system with services classified under Resource Utilization Groups (RUG). RUG payments include all routine, ancillary, and capital costs in one per diem payment. Reimbursement is made according to clinical characteristics, such as level of nursing care required and resources used. Patients with conditions such as COPD, respiratory infections, and shortness of breath may be classified into a higher level RUG and consequently be eligible for a higher payment. Treatment with the Threshold IMT or PEP may be used for patients in these higher level categories, but separate payment is not available. Services and supplies should be reported using the appropriate **HCPCS or CPT codes, E1399 or 94799.**

NOTE: Inclusion or exclusion of a procedure, specific product, or supply code does not imply any health insurance coverage or reimbursement policy.

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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	www.philips.com/respironics

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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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