



Related MLN Matters Article #: MM3172

Date Posted: June 4, 2004

Related CR #: 3172

Billing Requirements for Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy for the Treatment of Diabetic Wounds of the Lower Extremities

Key Words

MM3172, CR3172, R187CP, AB02183, AB03102, Billing, Requirement, Hyperbaric, Oxygen, Therapy, Diabetic Wounds, NCD, 22X

Provider Types Affected

Providers who submit claims to Medicare fiscal intermediaries (FIs)/carriers for Hyperbaric Oxygen (HBO) therapy

Key Points

- The effective date of instruction is April 1, 2003.
- The implementation date is June 28, 2004.
- Previous transmittals, AB-02-183 and AB-03-102, were issued on HBO therapy for treatment of wounds of the lower extremities.
- Transmittal AB-03-102 incorrectly instructed FIs to include **bill type 22X** (Skilled Nursing Facility, Inpatient, Part B) for this benefit.

Note: Claims for HBO therapy with bill type 22X should not be submitted.

- Also, topical application of oxygen does not meet the definition of HBO therapy, and its clinical efficacy has not been established. Therefore, reimbursement for topical application of oxygen will not be made by Medicare.
- Effective April 1, 2003, National Coverage Decision expanded the use of HBO therapy to include coverage for the treatment of diabetic wounds of the lower extremities.
- Providers should refer to the National Coverage Determinations Manual, Chapter 1, Section 20.29 for specific coverage criteria for HBO therapy.
- Expanded coverage criteria can be found in the Coverage Issues Manual, Section 35-10.

Important Links

The related MLN Matters article can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM3172.pdf> on the CMS website.

The official instructions (CR3172) issued, can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R187CP.pdf> on the CMS website.

Transmittal AB-02-183, CR2388, "Coverage of Hyperbaric Oxygen (HBO) Therapy for the Treatment of Diabetic Wounds of the Lower Extremities" can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/AB02183.pdf> on the CMS website.

Also, Transmittal AB-03-102, CR2769, "Clarification Regarding Coverage of Hyperbaric Oxygen (HBO) Therapy for the Treatment of Diabetic Wounds of the Lower Extremities," can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/Downloads/AB03102.pdf> on the CMS website.