



Hyperbaric Oxygen (HBO) Therapy (Section C, Topical Application of Oxygen)

MLN Matters Number: MM10220

Related Change Request (CR) Number: 10220

Related CR Release Date: November 17, 2017

Effective Date: April 3, 2017

Related CR Transmittal Number: R3921CP
and R203NCD

Implementation Date: December 18, 2017

PROVIDER TYPES AFFECTED

This MLN Matters Article is intended for physicians, providers, and suppliers billing Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Change Request (CR) 10220 informs MACs that, effective April 3, 2017, coverage of topical oxygen for the treatment of chronic wounds will be determined by the MACs. Make sure your billing staffs are aware of this change.

BACKGROUND

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) received a reconsideration request to remove the coverage exclusion of Continuous Diffusion of Oxygen Therapy (CDO) from the “Medicare National Coverage Determinations (NCD) Manual” (Pub. 100-03, Ch.1, Part 1, 20.29, Hyperbaric Oxygen (HBO) Therapy, Section C). This section of the NCD (Topical Application of Oxygen) considers treatment known as CDO as the application of topical oxygen and nationally non-covers this treatment. CMS asserts that the topical application of oxygen does not meet the definition of HBO therapy as stated in NCD 20.29.

Effective April 3, 2017, CMS decided that no NCD is appropriate at this time concerning the use of topical oxygen for the treatment of chronic wounds. As a result, CMS will amend NCD 20.29 by removing Section C, Topical Application of Oxygen. Medicare coverage of topical oxygen for the treatment of chronic wounds will be determined by your MAC.

NOTE: Although a MAC has discretion to cover topical oxygen for the treatment of chronic wounds, there shall be no coverage for any separate or additional payment for any physician’s professional services related to this procedure.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The official instruction, CR10220, consists of two transmittals. The first updates the “Medicare Claims Processing Manual” and is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/2017Downloads/R3921CP.pdf>. The second updates the “National Coverage Determinations Manual” and it is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/2017Downloads/R203NCD.pdf>.

If you have any questions, please contact your MAC at their toll-free number. That number is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/Medicare-FFS-Compliance-Programs/Review-Contractor-Directory-Interactive-Map/>.

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date of Change	Description
November 22, 2017	Initial article released.

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