

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



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Documentation for Durable Medical Equipment Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) Claims for Replacement of Essential Accessories for Beneficiary-Owned Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) Devices and Respiratory Assist Devices (RADs)

Provider Types Affected

This MLN Matters® Article is intended for providers and suppliers submitting claims to Durable Medical Equipment Medicare Administrative Contractors (DME MACs) for replacement of essential accessories for beneficiary-owned Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) devices and Respiratory Assist Devices (RADs) paid under the DMEPOS fee schedule.

What You Need to Know

Change Request (CR) 9741 provides guidance to the MACs for handling claims for replacement of essential accessories for beneficiary-owned CPAP devices and RADs purchased by Medicare. When making a payment determination, MACs will review the necessity of replacing a CPAP or RAD accessory when the beneficiary-owned base CPAP or RAD continues to meet the medical need requirements.

Background

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is alerting providers that due to the changing environment occurring in the DMEPOS industry, Medicare beneficiaries are having difficulty locating suppliers to replace accessories for beneficiary-owned equipment when the original supplier's documentation for the base CPAP or RAD is not available.

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Your MAC will require documentation when conducting medical review of DMEPOS claims for replacement of essential accessories for beneficiary-owned CPAP or RADs. CMS provides the following guidance to the MACs by identifying the documentation required when conducting medical review of DMEPOS claims for replacement of essential accessories for beneficiary-owned CPAP or RADs.

For purposes of reviews on replacement of accessories claims, if Medicare paid for the base CPAP or RAD initially (that is, for 13 months of continuous use), the medical necessity for the beneficiary-owned base CPAP or RAD is assumed to have been established. Even though a face-to-face encounter is required for the initial provision of the CPAP device, it is not needed for replacement of essential accessories for a patient-owned CPAP device purchased by Medicare.

Therefore, to make a payment determination MACs will only review:

- The base DME item continued medical need requirements, including documentation from the physician or treating practitioner that indicates the CPAP or RAD that requires replacement accessories continues to be medically necessary. For this purpose, documentation is considered timely when it is on record in the preceding 12 months; and
- The medical necessity of the replacement of specific accessories or furnishing of new accessories and whether they are essential for the effective use of the base DME.

Be aware that your MAC will ensure that the supplier's documentation records support the need to replace the accessory to maintain the equipment's functionality and meet the beneficiary's medical need. In the event that certain accessories are furnished for the first time, such as a heated humidifier or heated tubing, contractors will ensure that the accessories are medically necessary.

This guidance for replacement of essential accessories is to be applied only to CPAP and RADs owned by Medicare beneficiaries when Medicare initially paid for the base DME item. This guidance does not apply to CPAP or RADs when Medicare did not originally provide payment for the base item. In cases where Medicare did not originally pay for the DME item, all coverage, coding and documentation requirements in effect for the Date of Service (DOS) on the claim under review must be met.

Additional Information

The official instruction, CR9741 issued to your MAC regarding this change is available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/Downloads/R672PI.pdf>.

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If you have any questions, please contact your MAC at their toll-free number. That number is available at

<http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/index.html>.

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