Medical Policy

External Infusion Pump and Supplies

Description

An ambulatory infusion pump is an electrical/battery-operated device used to deliver solutions containing a parenteral drug under pressure at a regulated flow. It is small, portable, and designed to be carried by the member.

A stationary infusion pump is an electrical device that serves the same purpose as ambulatory pump but is larger and typically mounted on a pole.

An infusion controller is an electrical device that regulates the flow of parenteral solutions under gravity pressure.

Policy

External infusion pumps are commonly used for:

- Iron poisoning-administration of deferoxamine
- Chemotherapy for liver (heptocellular) cancer or colorectal cancer when disease is unresectable or member refuses surgical excision
- Morphine for intractable pain caused by cancer

External infusion administration of other drugs may be considered reasonable and necessary if either of the following sets of criteria (1) or (2) are met:

Criteria set 1:

- Parenteral administration of the drug in the home is reasonable and necessary, **AND**
- An infusion pump is necessary to safely administer the drug, **AND**
- The drug is administered by a prolonged infusion of at least 8 hours because of proven improved clinical efficacy, **AND**
- The therapeutic regimen is proven or generally accepted to have significant advantages over intermittent bolus administration regimens or infusions lasting less than 8 hours.

Criteria set 2:

- Parenteral administration of the drug in the home is reasonable and necessary, **AND**
- An infusion pump is necessary to safely administer the drug, **AND**
- The drug is administered by intermittent infusion (each episode of infusion lasting less than 8 hours) that does not require the member to return to the physician's office prior to the beginning of each infusion, **AND**

- Systemic toxicity or adverse effects of the drug is unavoidable without infusing it at a strictly controlled rate as indicated in the Physicians Desk Reference, or the U.S. Pharmacopeia Drug Information

Coverage for the administration of other drugs, based on criteria set 1 or 2, using an external infusion pump is limited to the following situations 1 - 8:

1. Anticancer Chemotherapy

Administration of the **anticancer chemotherapy** drugs cladribine, fluorouracil, cytarabine, bleomycin, floxuridine, doxorubicin (non-liposomal), vincristine or vinblastine by continuous infusion over at least 8 hours when the regimen is proven or generally accepted to have significant advantages over intermittent administration regimens.

2. Narcotic Analgesics

Administration of **narcotic analgesics** (except meperidine) in place of morphine to a member with intractable pain caused by cancer who has not responded to an adequate oral/transdermal therapeutic regimen and/or cannot tolerate oral/ trans-dermal or transmucosal narcotic analgesics.

3. Antifungal or Antiviral Drugs

Administration of the following **antifungal or antiviral drugs**: acyclovir, foscarnet, amphotericin B, and ganciclovir. Liposomal amphotericin B preparations are covered for members who meet one of the following criteria:

- The member has suffered some significant toxicity that would preclude the use of standard amphotericin B and is unable to complete the course of therapy without the liposomal form, **or**
- The member has significantly impaired renal function.

4. Parenteral Inotropic Therapy

Administration of **parenteral inotropic therapy**, using the drugs dobutamine, milrinone and/or dopamine for members with congestive heart failure and depressed cardiac function if a member meets **all** of the following criteria:

- Dyspnea at rest is present despite treatment with maximum or near maximum tolerated doses of digoxin, a loop diuretic, and an angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor or another vasodilator (e.g.,hydralazine or isosorbide dinitrate), used simultaneously (unless allergic or intolerant), **and**

- Doses are within the following ranges (lower doses will be covered only if part of a weaning or tapering protocol from higher dose levels):

  Dobutamine - 2.5-10 mcg/kg/min
  Milrinone - 0.375-0.750 mcg/kg/min
  Dopamine - less than or equal to 5 mcg/kg/min, **and**

- Cardiac studies by either invasive hemodynamic technique or using thoracic electrical bioimpedance (impedance cardiography), performed within 6 months prior to the initiation of home inotropic therapy showing:

  a) cardiac index (CI) is less than or equal to 2.2 liters/min/meter squared and/or pulmonary capillary wedge pressure (PCWP) is greater than or equal to 20 mm Hg before inotrope infusion on maximum medical management **and**
  b) at least a 20% increase in CI and/or at least a 20% decrease in PCWP during inotrope infusion at the dose initially prescribed for home infusion, **and**

- There has been an improvement in the member's well being, (less dyspnea, improved diuresis, improved renal function and/or reduction in weight) with the absence of dyspnea at rest at the time of discharge and the capability of outpatient evaluation by the prescribing physician at least monthly, **and**

- In the case of continuous infusion, there is documented deterioration in clinical status when the drug(s) is tapered or discontinued under observation in the hospital, **or**

- In the case of intermittent infusions, there is documentation of repeated hospitalizations for congestive heart failure despite maximum medical management, **and**

- Any life threatening arrhythmia is controlled prior to hospital discharge and there is no need for routine electrocardiographic monitoring at home, **and**

- The member is maintained on the lowest practical dose and efforts to decrease the dose of the drug(s) or the frequency/duration of infusion are documented during the first 3 months of therapy, **and**

- The member's cardiac symptoms, vital signs, weight, lab values, and response to therapy are routinely assessed and documented in the member's medical record.

5. Epoprostenol

Administration of parenteral epoprostenol or subcutaneous treprostinil for members with pulmonary hypertension if they meet the following disease criteria:

- The pulmonary hypertension is not secondary to pulmonary venous hypertension (e.g., left sided atrial or ventricular disease, left sided valvular heart disease, etc.) or disorders of the respiratory system (e.g., chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, interstitial lung disease, obstructive sleep apnea or other sleep disordered breathing, alveolar hypoventilation disorders, etc.); **and**

- The member has primary pulmonary hypertension or pulmonary hypertension which is secondary to one of the following conditions: connective tissue disease, thromboembolic disease of the pulmonary arteries, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, cirrhosis, diet drugs, congenital left to right shunts, etc. If these conditions are present, the following criteria must be met:

1. The pulmonary hypertension has progressed despite maximal medical and/or surgical treatment of the identified condition; **and**

2. The mean pulmonary artery pressure is greater than 25 mm Hg at rest or greater than 30 mm Hg with exertion; **and**

3. The member has significant symptoms from the pulmonary hypertension (i.e., severe dyspnea on exertion, and either fatigability, angina, or syncope); **and**

4. Treatment with oral calcium channel blocking agents has been tried and failed, or has been considered and ruled out.

6. Gallium nitrate

Gallium nitrate is covered for the treatment of symptomatic cancer-related hypercalcemia. In general, members with a serum calcium (corrected for albumin) less than 12 mg/dl would not be expected to be symptomatic. The recommended usage for gallium nitrate is daily for five consecutive days. Use for more that 5 days will be denied as not reasonable and necessary. More than one course of treatment for the same episode of hypercalcemia will be denied as not reasonable and necessary.

7. Ziconotide

Ziconotide is covered for the management of severe chronic pain in members for whom intrathecal (IT or epidural) therapy is warranted, and who were intolerant of or refractory to other treatment, such as systemic analgesics, adjunctive therapies, or IT morphine.

8. Subcutaneous immune globulin

Subcutaneous immune globulin is considered reasonable and necessary if criteria a **and** b are met:

a) The subcutaneous immune globulin preparation is a pooled plasma derivative which is approved for the treatment of primary immune deficiency disease; and
b) The member has a diagnosis of primary immune deficiency disease.

HCPCS Code	Description
A4222	SUPPLIES FOR EXTERNAL DRUG INFUSION PUMP, PER CASSETTE OR BAG (LIST DRUG SEPARATELY)
A4602	Replacement battery for external infusion pump owned by member, lithium, 1.5 volt, ea. This item is IC.
E0779	AMBULATORY INFUSION PUMP, MECHANICAL, REUSABLE, FOR INFUSION 8 HOURS OR GREATER
E0780	AMBULATORY INFUSION PUMP, MECHANICAL, REUSABLE, FOR INFUSION LESS THAN 8 HOURS

Documentation Requirements

Items in this policy may be subject to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) 6407 requirements.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) 6407 requires that the treating physician conduct a face-to-face examination during the six month period preceding the written order. The documentation must be received by the provider prior to delivery for certain DME items. The documentation must describe a medical condition for which the DME is being prescribed.

Exclusions

External infusion pumps and related drugs and supplies will be considered not reasonable and necessary when the criteria described above are not met.

An external infusion pump and related drugs and supplies will be considered not reasonable and necessary in the home setting for the treatment of thromboembolic disease and/or pulmonary embolism by heparin infusion.

Disposable drug delivery systems and related supplies, including elastomeric (disposable balloon delivery type) infusion pumps are considered not reasonable and necessary devices because they do not meet the definition of durable medical equipment.

The following items are considered not reasonable and necessary because they are convenience items:

1. Remote Controller
2. Computer software and/or adapter
3. Pump covers, cases including shower bags

NON-COVERED HCPCS CODES:

A4244	Alcohol or peroxide, per pint
A4245	Alcohol wipes, per box
A4246	Betadine or pHisoHex solution, per pint
A4247	Betadine or iodine swabs, per box
A5120	Skin barrier wipes or swabs, each (Medicare only)

Important Note:

Northwood's Medical Policies are developed to assist Northwood in administering plan benefits and determining whether a particular DMEPOS product or service is reasonable

and necessary. Equipment that is used primarily and customarily for a non-medical purpose is not considered durable medical equipment.

Coverage determinations are made on a case-by-case basis and are subject to all of the terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions of the member's contract including medical necessity requirements.

The conclusion that a DMEPOS product or service is reasonable and necessary does not constitute coverage. The member's contract defines which DMEPOS product or service is covered, excluded or limited. The policies provide for clearly written, reasonable and current criteria that have been approved by Northwood's Medical Director.

The clinical criteria and medical policies provide guidelines for determining the medical necessity for specific DMEPOS products or services. In all cases, final benefit determinations are based on the applicable contract language. To the extent there are any conflicts between medical policy guidelines and applicable contract language, the contract language prevails. Medical policy is not intended to override the policy that defines the member's benefits, nor is it intended to dictate to providers how to direct care. Northwood Medical policies shall not be interpreted to limit the benefits afforded to Medicare or Medicaid members by law and regulation and Northwood will use the applicable state requirements to determine required quantity limit guidelines.

Northwood's policies do not constitute medical advice. Northwood does not provide or recommend treatment to members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

References:

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Medicare Coverage Database, National Coverage Documents; November 2011

National Government Services, Inc. Jurisdiction A DME MAC, Local Coverage Determination No.L33794; revised date October 1, 2015.

National Government Services, Inc. Jurisdiction B DME MAC, Local Coverage Determination No. L33794; revised date October 1, 2015.

Applicable URAC Standard

Core 8	Staff operational tools and support

Change/Authorization History

Revision Number	Date	Description of Change	Prepared by	Approved by	Review Date:
A	11-20-06	Initial Release	Rosanne Brugnoni	Ken Fasse	n/a

01	12-08	Annual Review – no changes	Susan Glomb	Ken Fasse	n/a
02	12-22-09	Annual Review/ no changes	Susan Glomb	Ken Fasse	Dec.2009
03	12-02-10	Annual Review – No Changes	Susan Glomb	Ken Fasse	Dec. 2010
05	07-20-11	Added Important Note to all Medical Policies	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri	
06	11-23-11	Annual Review. References added to policy.	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri	Nov. 2011
07	11-28-12	Annual Review – No changes	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri	Nov 12
08	12-30-13	Annual Review- No changes	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri	Dec 13
09	11-24-14	Annual Review. Added: Items in this policy may be subject to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) 6407 requirements	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri	
10	12-30-14	IC only. Code: A4602- Replacement battery for external infusion pump owned by member, lithium, 1.5 volt, ea.	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri	
11	12-14-15	Annual Review. Updated Medicare reference.	Lisa Wojno	Dr. B. Almasri	