

The Department of Vermont Health Access Medical Policy

Subject: Blood Pressure Monitor Set-Up: Sphygmomanometer with Stethoscope OR Automatic Blood Pressure Monitor

Last Review: October 19, 2011

Revision 3:

Revision 2:

Revision 1: March 18, 2010

Original Effective: 2004

Description of Service or Procedure

The sphygmomanometer with cuff and stethoscope and the automatic blood pressure monitors are devices used to monitor blood pressure.

Disclaimer

Coverage is limited to that outlined in Medicaid Rule that pertains to the Beneficiary's Aid Category. Prior Authorization is only valid if the Beneficiary is eligible for the applicable item or service on the date of service.

Medicaid Rule

[7102.2](#) Prior Authorization Determination

[7103](#) Medical Necessity

[7505.2](#) Covered Services... "Blood pressure cuffs/machines (including stethoscope) when prescribed for patients who require frequent monitoring for a specific disease and when used as an alternative to home health nursing visits".

Medicaid Rules can be found at <http://humanservices.vermont.gov/on-line-rules>



Coverage Position

A sphygmomanometer with cuff and stethoscope or automatic blood pressure monitor may be covered for beneficiaries:

- When a sphygmomanometer with cuff and stethoscope or automatic blood pressure monitor is prescribed by a licensed medical provider enrolled in the VT Medicaid program who is knowledgeable in the use of a sphygmomanometer with cuff and stethoscope or automatic blood pressure monitor and who provides medical care to the beneficiary **AND**
- Who meet the clinical guidelines below.

Coverage Guidelines

A sphygmomanometer with cuff and stethoscope or automatic blood pressure monitor is a covered service for the beneficiary who:

- Requires ongoing, frequent monitoring (equal to or greater than once per day) for one of the following diseases:
 - Benign hypertensive renal disease; **OR**
 - Unspecified hypertensive renal disease; **OR**
 - Benign hypertensive heart and kidney disease with chronic kidney disease or with heart failure and chronic kidney disease; **OR**
 - Unspecified hypertensive heart and kidney disease with chronic kidney disease; **OR**
 - Heart failure and chronic kidney disease; **OR**
 - Renal failure; **OR**
 - Renal dialysis status; **OR**
 - Recent myocardial infarction with labile office blood pressure; **OR**
 - Symptomatic Coronary artery disease with labile blood pressure. **AND**
- The beneficiary is able to accurately record and report the readings; **AND**
- Is required to report those blood pressure reading to the prescribing provider who utilizes them in the course of his/her treatment of the beneficiary; **AND**
- When self monitoring of beneficiary's blood pressure is used as an alternative to home health nursing visits.

Note: Many individuals have difficulty obtaining correct readings, particularly if there are vision and/or hearing issues. Successful training and ability to obtain correct readings are a prerequisite for coverage.

Type of service or procedure covered

A standard blood pressure cuff with a stethoscope is covered for beneficiaries that have a trained caregiver available to them at all times that the prescribing provider has ordered the beneficiaries blood pressure to be checked **AND** the above criteria are found to be met.

An automatic blood pressure monitor is covered only when a trained caregiver is not available to assist in performing the blood pressures at the times that the prescribing provider has ordered to check the beneficiaries blood pressure **AND** the beneficiary is physically and cognitively able to use the device independently **AND** the above criteria are found to be met.

References

Hayes, Inc. Hayes Medical Technology Directory and Executive Summary. Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring with Fully Automatic Portable Monitors. Landsdale, PA: Hayes, Inc; November 19, 2008.

MayoClinic.com. (2008). Get the most out of home blood pressure monitoring. Retrieved January 5, 2011, from: <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/hight-blood-pressure/hi00016>

Pickering, T. G., Phil, D., & White, W. B. (2008). When and how to use self (home) and ambulatory blood pressure monitoring. Journal of the American Society of Hypertension, 2(3). Retrieved January 05, 2011, from: <http://download.journals.elsevierhealth.com/pdfs/journals/1933-1711/PIIS1933171108000478.pdf>

Stergiou, G., Mengden, T., Padfield, P. L., Parati, G., & O'brien, E. (2004). Self monitoring of blood pressure at home, BMJ 329. Retrieved January 5, 2011, from: <http://www.bmj.com/content/329/7471/870.full.pdf+html>

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