

The Department of Vermont Health Access Medical Policy

Subject: Humidifier

Last Review: August 1, 2011

Revision 3:

Revision 2:

Revision 1:

Original Effective: 2004

Description of Service or Procedure

A humidifier, for this policy, is a piece of durable medical equipment for providing extensive supplemental humidification prescribed for use with intermittent positive pressure breathing (IPPB) treatments, oxygen delivery, or use with positive pressure devices (i.e. CPAP / BIPAP). Humidifiers can provide heated or non-heated humidification. A humidifier in itself is not used to deliver a combination of air and medication.

Note: Equipment used as an environmental control or to enhance the environmental setting (i.e. central or room humidifiers) are not a covered service. (Medicaid Rule 7505.5; Durable Equipment; Non-Covered Services).

Disclaimer

Coverage is limited to that outlined in Medicaid Rule that pertains to the beneficiary's aid category. Prior Authorization (PA) 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

[7505.5](#) Non-Covered Services

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



Coverage Position

A humidifier may be covered for beneficiaries:

- When the humidifier is prescribed by a licensed medical provider enrolled in the VT Medicaid program who is knowledgeable in the use of humidifiers and who provides medical care to the beneficiary AND
- Who meet the clinical guidelines below.

Coverage Guidelines

This device may be considered for a beneficiary who:

- Is using a CPAP or BiPAP device under the guidelines for that device and under the orders of a physician, with pressures equal to or exceeding 12 cm **OR**
- Is using oxygen under the orders of a physician, with a flow of greater than 4L/min. **OR**
- Is using another respiratory device, such as an IPPB or ventilator, under the orders of a physician.

Please note: Since different types humidifiers are used for different purposes and based on the type of equipment, a beneficiary may require more than one type of humidifier.

Clinical guidelines for repeat service or procedure

Repeat service or procedure is limited to the guidelines as noted above. Replacement is limited to loss, damage beyond repair, and warranty limitations.

Type of service or procedure not covered (this list may not be all inclusive)

Humidifiers that are used for environmental control or to enhance the environment (i.e. central or room humidifiers) are not a covered service. (Medicaid Rule 7505.5; Durable Equipment; Non-Covered Services).

References

Does oxygen need humidification? (2009, December 14). *Nursing Times.Net*. Retrieved April 19, 2011, from: <http://www.nursingtimes.net/nursing-practice/clinical-specialisms/respiratory/does-oxygen-need-humidification/5009649.article>

Duong, M., Jayaram, L., Camfferman, D., & Catcheside, P., Mykityn, I., & McEvoy, R.D. (2005). Use of heated humidification during nasal CPAP titration in obstructive sleep apnoea syndrome. *European Respiratory Journal*, 26(4). Retrieved April 19, 2011, from: <http://erj.ersjournals.com/content/26/4/679.full.pdf+html>.

Lung Expansion Therapy. In *Wyka* (Chap. 18). Retrieved April 19, 2011, from: <http://virtual.yosemite.cc.ca.us/lylet/224/224/Lectures/LungExpansion/Lecture%20-%20Lung%20Expansion.doc>

Mador, M.J., Krauza, M., Pervez, A., Pierce, D., & Braun, M. (2005). Effect of heated humidification on compliance and quality of life in patients with sleep apnea using nasal continuous positive airway pressure. *Chest*, 128(4). Retrieved April 19, 2011, from: <http://chestjournal.chestpubs.org/content/128/4/2151.full.pdf+html>.

National Institute of Health. (2005). *Clinical Study of Intermittent Positive Pressure Breathing (IPPB)*. Retrieved April 19, 2011, from: <http://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT00000565>

Rakotonanahary, D., Pelletier-Fleury, N., Gagnadoux, F., & Fleury, F. (2001). Predictive factors for the need for additional humidification during nasal continuous positive airway pressure therapy. *Chest*, 119. Retrieved April 19, 2011, from: <http://chestjournal.chestpubs.org/content/119/2/460.full.pdf>.

Randerath, W.J., Meier, J., Genger, H., Domanski, U., & Ruhle K-H. (2002). Efficiency of cold passover and heated humidification under continuous positive airway pressure, *European Respiratory Journal*, 20. Retrieved April 19, 2011, from: <http://erj.ersjournals.com/content/20/1/183.full.pdf>.

This document has been classified as public information.