

The Department of Vermont Health Access Medical Policy

Subject: Pediatric Scales
Last Review: June 28, 2011
Revision 3:
Revision 2:
Revision 1: September 1, 2009
Original Effective: 2004

Description of Service or Procedure

Coverage for pediatric scales is limited to:

- Weighing pediatric beneficiaries to monitor their weight for the regulation of medications, OR
- Weighing diapers to determine urinary output.

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

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

Coverage Position

A pediatric scale may be covered for those pediatric beneficiaries:

- When the pediatric scale is prescribed by a licensed medical provider operating within their practice in accordance with Vermont Statutes, who is knowledgeable in the use of pediatric scales for monitoring purposes and who provides medical care to the beneficiary AND
- Who meet the clinical guidelines below.



Coverage Guidelines

Pediatric scales are covered for children who:

- Have a medical condition that requires daily or more frequent monitoring of weight in order to regulate medications and the child does not require daily visits from a home health nurse who would be able to provide the monitoring, OR
- Are receiving breast milk when the mother must ingest medication that may adversely affect the infant, where the medication is known to enter breast milk and where it is imperative that the amount received by the infant is closely monitored, OR
- Have a medical condition that requires daily or more frequent monitoring of the weight of their diaper in order to measure urinary output (for example, hydronephrosis)

Clinical guidelines for replacement of the service or procedure

- If the repair of the device is greater than 50% the cost of replacement.
- Indication for Approval of device or service remains present.

Type of service or procedure covered

- Pediatric scales that measure in grams.
- If the need is 3 months or less, rental is appropriate.

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

Bathroom scales are not a covered benefit (Medicaid Rule 7505.5).

References

The following references demonstrate the use of urine collected in diapers to determine urinary output, or use of infant weight to determine appropriate levels of medication.

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Hogberg, J., Hanburg, A., Berglund, M., Skerfving, S., Remberger, M., Calafat, A.M. et al. (2008). Phthalate diesters and their metabolites in human breast milk, blood or serum, and urine as biomarkers of exposure in vulnerable populations. *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 116(3).

Wurtzel, D. (1990). Prenatal administration of indomethacin as a tocolytic agent: Effect on neonatal renal function. *Obstetrics and Gynecology*, 76(4). Retrieved April 13, 2011, from: http://journals.lww.com/greenjournal/abstract/1990/10000/prenatal_administration_of_indomethacin_as_a.26.aspx
<http://www.scribd.com/doc/6486293/Phthalate-Diesters-and-Their-Metabolites-in-Human-Breast-Milk-Blood-or-Serum-and-Urine-as-Biomarkers-of-Exposure-in-Vulnerable-Populations>

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