

The Department of Vermont Health Access Medical Policy

Subject: Respiratory Suction Pump

Last Review: October 25, 2011

Revision 3:

Revision 2:

Revision 1:

Original Effective: 2004

Description of Service or Procedure

A respiratory suction pump is an electrical aspirator designed for upper respiratory oral pharyngeal and tracheal suction and may be for use in the home. It is designed to remove respiratory secretions that cannot be managed by the beneficiary due to a compromised cough mechanism or tracheostomy.

Disclaimer

Coverage is limited to that outlined in Medicaid Rule that pertains to the beneficiary's aid category and 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

An electrical suction device may be covered for those beneficiaries:

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



Coverage Guidelines

A suction device may be appropriate for a beneficiary who:

- Has a medical condition which impairs the raising and clearing of secretions (secondary to but are not limited to: cancer of the mouth/throat, dysfunctional swallowing due to a neurological condition, tracheostomy, unconsciousness or obtunded state) **AND**
- The individual and/or caregiver has successfully demonstrated, to a knowledgeable practitioner such as a home health or hospital nurse, the ability to use, manage, and clean the suction device to a skilled professional practitioner.

Clinical guidelines for repeat service or procedure

Repeat service is limited to the guidelines above.

Type of service or procedure covered

Home respiratory suction device and related supplies and services.

References

Discharge planning for the respiratory care patient. AARC Clinical Practice Guidelines. (1995). *Respiratory Care*, 40(12). Retrieved April 29, 2011, from: <http://www.rcjournal.com/cpgs/dprpcpg.html>

LCD for Suction Pumps (L11505), (2011). *NHIC, Corp.* Retrieved May 5, 2011, from: http://www.medicarenhic.com/dme/medical_review/mr_lcds/mr_lcd_current/L11505_2011-03-01_PA_2009-09.pdf

Nasotracheal suctioning. AARC Clinical Practice Guidelines. (2004). *Respiratory Care*, 49(9). Retrieved April 29, 2011, from: <http://www.rcjournal.com/cpgs/pdf/09.04.1080.pdf>

Wyka, K.A. (2008). High-tech respiratory home care. *Respiratory Home Care*, July/August. Retrieved April 29, 2011, from: <http://www.foocus.com/pdfs/Articles/JulAug08/Wyka.pdf>

This document has been classified as public information.