

The Department of Vermont Health Access Clinical Criteria

Subject: Paraffin Bath

Last Review: January 31, 2022*

Past Revisions: July 22, 2020, July 6, 2017, June 15, 2016, June 3, 2015, October 1, 2014, March 20, 2012, April 12, 2011, and 2014

***Please note: Most current content changes will be highlighted in yellow.**

Description of Service or Procedure

Paraffin bath is a device that delivers heat to a distal extremity using melted paraffin and mineral oil, for the purpose of treating the extremity by creating a transient tissue temperature rise through heat conduction.

Disclaimer

Coverage is limited to that outlined in Medicaid Rule or Health Care Administrative Rules 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

Health Care Administrative Rules can be found at <https://humanservices.vermont.gov/rules-policies/health-care-rules/health-care-administrative-rules-hcar>

Medicaid Rules

7102.2 Prior Authorization Determination

Health Care Administrative Rules

4.101 Medical Necessity

Coverage Position

Paraffin Bath may be covered for beneficiaries:

- When the device is prescribed by a licensed medical provider, enrolled in the Vermont Medicaid program, operating within their scope of practice as described on the Vermont Office of



Professional Regulation's website*, Statute, or rule who is knowledgeable regarding rheumatology, orthopedics, and/or rehabilitation medicine and the use of paraffin baths, and who provides medical care to the beneficiary AND

- When the clinical criteria below are met.

* Vermont's Office of Professional Regulation's website: <https://sos.vermont.gov/opr/>

Coverage Criteria

A paraffin bath may be covered for beneficiaries who:

- Have a chronic medical condition for which conductive heat is beneficial **AND**
- When the paraffin bath is prescribed by a medical practitioner as described above **AND**
- Have successfully tried the use of paraffin in a hospital or outpatient setting with a professional practitioner skilled in the use of thermal modalities without any adverse reactions **AND**
- Have tried less expensive, medically appropriate treatment, which has proven unsuccessful

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) exception: Vermont Medicaid will provide comprehensive services and furnish all Medicaid coverable, appropriate, and medically necessary services needed to correct and ameliorate health conditions for Medicaid members under age 21.

Please note, Vermont Medicaid Clinical Criteria is reviewed based on available literature, evidence-based guidelines/standards, Medicaid rule and policy, and Medicare coverage determinations that may be appropriate to incorporate when applicable.

Clinical criteria for repeat service or procedure

Repeat services are covered when the paraffin bath requires replacement before the DME restriction period, for one of the following reasons:

- When the device is no longer functional through normal wear and tear (expected to last at least 5 years).
- A new device will be considered if repair of the current device costs more than 50% of the replacement cost.

Type of service or procedure covered

A paraffin bath, for **non-acute**, chronic, or post-traumatic inflammatory conditions such as arthritis.

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

Paraffin baths are contraindicated for individuals who have any of the following:

- Open wounds in the treatment area.
- Allergies to paraffin.
- Impaired sensation in the treatment area.
- Cancer, thrombophlebitis, hemorrhage, fever, peripheral vascular disease, cardiac insufficiency, edema, or severe inflammation in the treatment area.
- Tissue damaged by radiation therapy in the treatment area.
- Are pregnant, if the treatment area is near the developing fetus.

- Issues related to mental confusion.
- Unreliable thermoregulation, such as the very young or very old.

Coding guidelines

The paraffin bath unit and the paraffin are billed separately.

References

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