



Clinical Medical Policy Back-up or Second Ventilator

Benefit Coverage:

Prior authorization and medical review is required for those items specified in the document “*DME Benefit -Prior Auth Requirements.*”

Ventilators are a continuous rental and all accessories and supplies are included in the rental fee.

Description:

Neighborhood utilizes the definition of durable medical equipment (DME) developed by The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

DME is equipment which:

- Can withstand repeated use; i.e., could normally be rented and used by successive patients;
- Is primarily and customarily used to serve a medical purpose;
- Generally is not useful to a person in the absence of illness or injury; and,
- Is appropriate for use in a patient’s home.

Back-up Ventilator

A backup ventilator is defined as an identical or similar device used to meet the same medical needs for the patient but provided at the bedside as a precaution in case of malfunction of the primary ventilator.

Second Ventilator

A second ventilator is one which serves a different purpose than the primary ventilator, as determined by the patient's medical needs.

Coverage Determination:

Back-up Ventilator

The DME vendor is responsible for ensuring that the patient’s medical needs will be met on a continuous and ongoing basis, and that there is a contingency plan to deal with any interruptions in the use of the equipment such as emergency situations or mechanical failures, that would be life threatening to the patient. The expectation is that an acceptable plan would involve input from the treating practitioner and would take into account the severity of the patient’s condition and time restraints in providing emergency support.

Examples (not all-inclusive) of situations in which a second or other multiple piece of equipment would be considered a backup and therefore would not be covered are:



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- A ventilator-dependent patient is confined to bed and a second ventilator of the same or similar type is provided at the bedside as a precaution in case of malfunction of the primary ventilator.

Second Ventilator

A second ventilator is considered for authorization and reimbursement when it is required to serve a different purpose than the primary ventilator, as determined by the patient's medical needs, as defined in the criteria below. A Certificate of Medical Necessity is required. Medical documentation must indicate specific medical needs for which the second ventilator will address.

There are several safety reasons that the same vent cannot be used for both stationary and wheelchair mounting purposes:

- Stationary vents are mounted on stands and uniformly are attached to humidifiers. Because they are attached to humidifiers they use one type of circuit.
- Ambulatory humidifiers are mounted on wheelchair platforms, are also attached to a battery power source, and because they uniformly do not involve humidity, they use a different type of circuit.
- In order for a single person to perform a transfer from a bed to a wheelchair with a single vent, they would need to perform manual “bagging” during the disconnection, transfer of patient and transfer of vent.

Criteria for Second Ventilators:

A second ventilator will be considered for approval when the following conditions are met:

1. Without both pieces of equipment the member may be prone to certain medical complications, may not be able to achieve certain appropriate medical outcomes, or may not be able to use the medical equipment effectively, and,
 - a) When a member confined to a wheelchair requires a ventilator mounted on the wheelchair for use during the day and needs another ventilator (either same or different type) to be used while in bed, or
 - b) Member has other medical needs or mobility requirements that indicate the second ventilator will serve a different purpose than the primary ventilator.

Exclusions:



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Back-up ventilators for convenience or risk of power failure only.

CMP Number: CMP-051
CMP Cross Reference: Durable Medical Equipment

References:

Rhode Island DHS DME Coverage

<http://www.dhs.state.ri.us/dhs/heacre/provsvcs/manuals/dme/scrnlstA.htm>

Miller's Anesthesia, 7th ed., Chapter 42. Interpretation and Management of Arrhythmias.

Braunwald's Heart Disease. A Textbook of Cardiovascular Medicine. 8th ed., Chapter 68.
Toxins and the Heart.

Splaingard M.L. et al., Home Positive-Pressure Ventilation. Twenty Years Experience.
CHEST 1983, Volume 84, pp. 376-382.

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<http://www.medicarenhic.com/dme/publications/dme35.pdf>

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