

Assessment of Public Comment

During the public comment period, the Board received one public comment.

The comment recommended removal of the prior authorization request (PAR) requirements for various high-cost casting items for which there are significantly less expensive, clinically equivalent versions within the Board's current DME (Durable Medical Equipment) Fee Schedule (which do not require a PAR). The comment did not submit applicable data and/or evidence from the medical literature to support a sweeping elimination of the PAR requirements. That said, if medically necessary, providers can still submit their clinical rationale for the justification of more expensive DME items via the PAR process.

The comment also refers to casting supply codes, which are not typically reimbursed separately, rather, are considered part of a related surgery and/or casting procedure. It is noteworthy that Medicare only reimburses for these codes under certain limited circumstances; Medicaid does not reimburse these items.

The comment also recommended against the PAR requirements for codes E0217 (water circulating heat pad with pump), E0218 (fluid circulating cold pad with pump any type), and E0236 (pump for water circulating pad). Unfortunately, these codes and devices are frequently requested in instances when they are not medical necessary. The medical necessity for such high-cost, brand name devices, as opposed to a lower cost, clinically equivalent ice pack or simple splint can be best determined through the Board's PAR process, which permits providers to submit the clinical rationale for the medical necessity of more sophisticated DME. There are many variables in determining Medicare's reimbursement of these codes; NYS Medicaid does not reimburse the codes in any capacity. In those rare instances when a cold compression unit is medically necessary, the appropriate code is E0218, rather than the submission of numerous codes for various parts of a device.

Therefore, in summary, no change has been made to the proposal in response to this comment.

Changes made:

- Typographical and spelling errors
- Clarifying changes to introduction language