



January 2012

Durable Medical Equipment - Documenting Continued Use

Dear Physician,

Treating physicians’ records often omit documentation of a beneficiary’s continuing use of durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS). By Medicare statute, lack of physician documentation regarding a beneficiary’s continued need and use of an item of DMEPOS will result in claim denials.

Many “model charts” from various clinical organizations recommend maintenance of a medication list that indicates the medication(s), strength, dosing schedule, and what the patient is actually taking. At each visit, the date of the visit is recorded and notations made regarding the patient’s adherence with each medication. In addition to the patient’s current medications, items of DME can also be incorporated into the list. Hospital beds, respiratory equipment (e.g., nebulizers, CPAP, oxygen) and diabetes testing equipment and supplies are just some of the types of DME that can be monitored through this use of an “expanded” medication list.

In the event of a record request from the medical equipment supplier, this Equipment/Medication List can be provided along with office notes to support your patient’s claim for Medicare coverage.

Thank you for your cooperation and your care of Medicare beneficiaries.

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