

Reminder: Blood Pressure Devices and Prior Authorization

Information posted January 20, 2012

Blood pressure devices may require prior authorization depending on the type (grade) of device and the patient's diagnosis.

Hospital-Grade Blood Pressure Devices

Hospital-grade blood pressure devices (procedure code A9279 with modifier U1) are a benefit of Texas Medicaid Comprehensive Care Program (CCP) for clients who are birth through 20 years of age.

A hospital-grade blood pressure device, as defined by Texas Medicaid, includes the following features:

- Memory for continuous recording
- An alarm system to notify the caregiver of abnormal readings
- Capability for frequent or continuous automatic blood pressure and heart rate monitoring with correction of motion artifact

All hospital-grade blood pressure devices require prior authorization.

Non-Hospital-Grade Blood Pressure Devices

Non-hospital-grade blood pressure devices (procedure codes A4660 [manual] or A4670 [automatic]) are a benefit of Texas Medicaid Home Health Services for clients of any age. If the device cannot be provided for a client who is 20 years of age or younger through Home Health Services, it may be covered through CCP if it is determined to be medically necessary.

Non-hospital-grade blood pressure devices include the following:

- Manual blood pressure devices that require manual cuff inflation with real-time visualization of the results displayed on the manometer.
- Automatic blood pressure devices that inflate the cuff manually or automatically and display the blood pressure results on a small screen.

Non-hospital-grade blood pressure devices do not require prior authorization for claims that are submitted with an appropriate diagnosis code.

Refer to: 2011 *Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual, Children's Services Handbook*, subsection 2.5.4.1.1, "Manual and Automatic Blood Pressure Devices" or 2011 *Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual, Durable Medical Equipment, Medical Supplies, and Nutritional Products Handbook*, subsection 2.2.6.1, "[Blood Pressure Devices] Prior Authorization" for a list of diagnosis codes that do not require prior authorization.

For all other diagnoses, non-hospital-grade blood pressure devices require prior authorization.

For additional guidelines about blood pressure devices, providers can refer to the 2011 *Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual, Children's Services Handbook*, subsection 2.5.4, "Blood Pressure Devices" or 2011 *Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual, Durable Medical Equipment, Medical Supplies, and Nutritional Products Handbook*, subsection 2.2.6, "Blood Pressure Devices."

For more information, call the TMHP Contact Center at 1-800-925-9126.