

ISSUE DATE December 9, 2014	EFFECTIVE DATE January 5, 2015	NUMBER 24-14-34, 25-14-01
SUBJECT Revisions to Prior Authorization Requirements for Apnea Monitors		BY  Vincent D. Gordon, Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to announce revisions to the Prior Authorization requirements for apnea monitors, effective with dates of service on and after January 5, 2015.

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to all medical suppliers and pharmacies enrolled in the Medical Assistance (MA) Program that render services to MA beneficiaries in the Fee-for-Service delivery system. Medical suppliers and pharmacies that render services to MA beneficiaries in the managed care delivery system should address any billing, prior authorization or payment related questions to the appropriate managed care organization.

BACKGROUND:

In MA Bulletin 99-08-04 titled “MA Program Fee Schedule Changes - 2007 HCPCS Updates; Addition of Procedure Codes and Modifiers; Prior Authorization” issued March 14, 2008, and effective March 15, 2008, the Department of Public Welfare (Department) announced the addition of procedure code E0619, apnea monitor with a recording feature, to the MA Program Fee. Currently, procedure code E0619 requires prior authorization (PA) upon the initial month of rental.

DISCUSSION:

Providers have voiced concerns that the Department’s requirement that PA be secured upon the initial month of rental causes delays in providing medically necessary apnea monitors to MA newborn beneficiaries discharged from the hospital, who need the equipment immediately. To address these concerns, effective with dates of service on and after January 5, 2015, prior authorization will not be required for the first three months of the rental for procedure code E0619. The Department will continue to require

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

The appropriate toll free number for your provider type

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs Web site at
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that PA be secured after three months rental. (See 62 P.S. § 443.6(b)(3) relating to the reimbursement for certain medical assistance items and services).

PROCEDURE:

The Department is updating the MA Program Fee Schedule to reflect that PA must be secured for procedure code E0619 after three months rental, effective with dates of service on and after January 5, 2015.