



TriCenturion  
P.O. Box 100282  
Columbia, SC 29202-3282

## Region A/B DME PSC Bulletin September 2006

**THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE SHARED WITH ALL HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS AND  
MANAGERIAL MEMBERS OF THE PHYSICIAN/SUPPLIER STAFF. BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE  
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Bul20060901OXYIDTF

### Oxygen Policy Revision

An article titled Oximetry Testing – Supplier Involvement was published in the June 2006 Advisory. It provided additional information regarding Change Request 3751, Transmittal 173, published on 8/16/05.

One of the statements made in that article was: “The IDTF may send the test results only to the physician. It must not send them to the supplier.” Those statements require further clarification – i.e.: The IDTF should send the results to the physician. Because this is considered protected health information, the supplier may not receive a copy of the test report until the physician has reviewed the results, made the decision to order oxygen for the patient, and contacted the supplier with that order.

The information from the June article as well as this clarification has been incorporated in a revision of the Oxygen medical policy, which is included in the September 2006 policy updates.

The policy revision includes a statement concerning coverage for patients who are enrolled in clinical trials sponsored by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. However, these clinical trials are in the development stage and have not begun.

The policy includes a revised definition for a portable oxygen concentrator (E1392). This definition is effective for claims with dates of service on or after 10/1/06.

Code E1392 describes an oxygen concentrator which is designed to be portable, weighs less than 20 pounds, is capable of delivering 85% or greater oxygen concentration, is capable of operating on either AC or DC (e.g., auto accessory outlet) power, has an integrated battery that is capable of providing at least 2 hours of remote portability at a minimum of 2 LPM equivalency on a single charge, and has an integrated battery charger. Code E1392 includes the device itself, one battery, an AC power adapter, a DC power adapter, and a carry bag and/or cart. If a concentrator meets all of these criteria and is also capable of functioning as a stationary concentrator, operating 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, code E1392 is billed in addition to the stationary concentrator code (E1390).

Finally, it announces a new code that is effective for claims with dates of service on or after 10/1/06:

K0738 Portable gaseous oxygen system, rental; home compressor used to fill portable oxygen cylinders, includes portable containers, regulator, flowmeter, humidifier, cannula or mask, and tubing

Code K0738 describes a feature of an oxygen concentrator that allows the beneficiary to fill portable gaseous oxygen cylinders from a stationary concentrator. This feature may be integrated into the stationary concentrator or be a separate component. When code K0738 is billed, code E0431 (portable gaseous oxygen system, rental) must not be used.

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