Clinical Policy: Oxygen Use and Concentrators
Reference Number: CP.MP.190
Last Review Date: 09/20

See Important Reminder at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description
Oxygen therapy is the administration of oxygen at concentrations greater than that in ambient air (20.9%) with the intent of treating or preventing the symptoms and manifestations of hypoxemia.¹

Policy/Criteria
I. It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation® that initial approval of oxygen concentrators and stationary oxygen systems for members/enrollees ≥ 21 are medically necessary when meeting all of the following:
   A. Physician-documented severe lung disease or hypoxia-related symptoms that might be expected to improve with oxygen therapy;
   B. The blood gas study meets one of the following:
      1. For Group I, any of the following:
         a. An arterial PO 2 at or below 55 mm Hg or an arterial oxygen saturation at or below 88 percent taken at rest (awake);
         b. An arterial PO 2 at or below 55 mm Hg, or an arterial oxygen saturation at or below 88 percent, for at least 5 minutes taken during sleep for a beneficiary who demonstrates an arterial PO 2 at or above 56 mm Hg or an arterial oxygen saturation at or above 89 percent while awake;
         c. A decrease in arterial PO 2 more than 10 mm Hg, or a decrease in arterial oxygen saturation more than 5 percent from baseline saturation, for at least 5 minutes taken during sleep associated with symptoms (e.g., impairment of cognitive processes and [nocturnal restlessness or insomnia]) or signs (e.g., cor pulmonale, "P" pulmonale on EKG, documented pulmonary hypertension and erythrocytosis) reasonably attributable to hypoxemia;
         d. An arterial PO 2 at or below 55 mm Hg or an arterial oxygen saturation at or below 88 percent, taken during exercise for a beneficiary who demonstrates an arterial PO 2 at or above 56 mm Hg or an arterial oxygen saturation at or above 89 percent during the day while at rest. In this case, oxygen is provided for during exercise if it is documented that the use of oxygen improves the hypoxemia that was demonstrated during exercise when the beneficiary was breathing room air;
      2. For Group II, both of the following:
         a. An arterial PO2 of 56-59 mm Hg or an arterial blood oxygen saturation of 89 percent at rest (awake), during sleep for at least 5 minutes, or during exercise (as described under Group I criteria);
         b. Any of the following:
            i. Dependent edema suggesting congestive heart failure;
            ii. Pulmonary hypertension or cor pulmonale, determined by measurement of pulmonary artery pressure, gated blood pool scan, echocardiogram, or "P"
III. It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation that reauthorization of oxygen concentrators and stationary oxygen systems for members/enrollees ≥ 21 are medically necessary when meeting all of the following:
A. Evaluation by the treating physician within 90 days prior to the date of recertification;
B. A new arterial blood gas (ABG) or pulse oximetry result documents that member still meets the criteria in section I above (initial approval criteria), and one of the following:
   1. For Group 1:
      a. The measurement must be obtained within 90 days of the recertification date, and by the physician or designee, or by an independent diagnostic testing facility
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(IDTF). DME companies are prohibited from obtaining the O2 levels. Home oxygen companies are permitted to coordinate with an IDTF for the purpose of obtaining needed overnight oximetry saturation testing;

b. In cases where treatment is for nocturnal hypoxemia, a new ABG or pulse oximetry result is not required for reauthorization once the member has had greater than 2 oxygen concentrator approvals;

2. For Group 2 (rare cases where initial certification was for 3 months with PO2 56-59 or O2 sat 89%), a repeat ABG or oximetry must be obtained within 30 days of recertification date.

IV. It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation that reauthorization of oxygen concentrators and other supplemental oxygen delivery systems for members/enrollees < 21 of age (including medically fragile members/enrollees and those covered by EPSDT) are medically necessary when meeting both of the following:

A. Evaluation by the treating physician within 30 days prior to the date of recertification;

B. One of the following:
   1. A new recorded (overnight recommended) pulse oximetry tracing, sleep study report, or blood gas result documents that the member still meets the initial authorization criteria in Section II above, and the measurement meets both of the following:
      a. Obtained within 30 days of the recertification date;
      b. Obtained by the physician or designee, or by an independent diagnostic testing facility (IDTF). DME companies are prohibited from obtaining the O2 levels unless they are also home oxygen providers. Home oxygen companies are permitted to coordinate with an IDTF for the purpose of obtaining needed overnight oximetry saturation testing;

   2. Chronic hypoxemia is not expected to improve or is expected to worsen, as documented in an explanatory letter of medical necessity (LOMN).

V. It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation that portable oxygen systems for members/enrollees ≥ 21 are medically necessary when meeting all of the following:

A. Criteria in section I. is met;

B. The member is mobile within the home;

C. The qualifying blood gas study for the approved stationary concentrator was performed while at rest (awake) or during exercise. (If the only qualifying blood gas study was performed during sleep, portable oxygen will be denied as not reasonable and necessary).

VI. It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation that oxygen concentrators are not medically necessary for the following indications:

A. Angina pectoris in the absence of hypoxemia;

B. Breathlessness without cor pulmonale or evidence of hypoxemia;

C. Severe peripheral vascular disease resulting in clinically evident desaturation in one or more extremities;

D. Shortness of breath or dyspnea in a pediatric patient without evidence of hypoxemia.
VII. It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation® that stationary gaseous oxygen systems and related contents for the treatment of cluster headaches are medically necessary when meeting the following:
A. Diagnosis of cluster headache;
B. Enrolled in a clinical trial approved by CMS and which is in compliance with the requirements described in the CMS National Coverage Determination Manual §240.2.2 for dates of service on or after 01/04/2011.7;
C. At least five severe to very severe unilateral headache attacks lasting 15-180 minutes when untreated;
D. The headaches are accompanied by at least one of the following:
   1. Ipsilateral conjunctival injection and/or lacrimation;
   2. Ipsilateral nasal congestion and/or rhinorrhea;
   3. Ipsilateral eyelid edema;
   4. Ipsilateral forehead and facial sweating;
   5. Ipsilateral miosis and/or ptosis;
   6. A sense of restlessness or agitation.

Background
According to the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) long-term oxygen therapy (LTOT) in the home or alternate site health care facility is normally indicated for the treatment of hypoxemia. LTOT has been shown to have a significant positive impact on hypoxemic patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

Coding Implications
This clinical policy references Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®). CPT® is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association. All CPT codes and descriptions are copyrighted 2020, American Medical Association. All rights reserved. CPT codes and CPT descriptions are from the current manuals and those included herein are not intended to be all-inclusive and are included for informational purposes only. Codes referenced in this clinical policy are for informational purposes only. Inclusion or exclusion of any codes does not guarantee coverage. Providers should reference the most up-to-date sources of professional coding guidance prior to the submission of claims for reimbursement of covered services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HCPCS Codes</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E0424</td>
<td>Stationary compressed gaseous oxygen system, rental; includes container, contents, regulator, flowmeter, humidifier, nebulizer, cannula or mask, and tubing</td>
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<tr>
<td>E0425</td>
<td>Stationary compressed gas system, purchase; includes regulator, flowmeter, humidifier, nebulizer, cannula or mask, and tubing</td>
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<tr>
<td>E0430</td>
<td>Portable gaseous oxygen system, purchase; includes regulator, flowmeter, humidifier, cannula or mask, and tubing</td>
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<tr>
<td>E0431</td>
<td>Portable gaseous oxygen system, rental; includes portable container, regulator, flowmeter, humidifier, cannula or mask, and tubing</td>
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<tr>
<td>E0433</td>
<td>Portable liquid oxygen system, rental; home liquefier used to fill portable liquid oxygen containers, includes portable containers, regulator, flowmeter, humidifier, cannula or mask and tubing, with or without supply reservoir and contents gauge</td>
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<thead>
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<th>HCPCS Codes</th>
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<tr>
<td>E0434</td>
<td>Portable liquid oxygen system, rental; includes portable container, supply reservoir, humidifier, flowmeter, refill adaptor, contents gauge, cannula or mask, and tubing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E0435</td>
<td>Portable liquid oxygen system, purchase; includes portable container, supply reservoir, flowmeter, humidifier, contents gauge, cannula or mask, tubing and refill adaptor</td>
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<tr>
<td>E0439</td>
<td>Stationary liquid oxygen system, rental; includes container, contents, regulator, flowmeter, humidifier, nebulizer, cannula or mask, &amp; tubing</td>
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<tr>
<td>E0440</td>
<td>Stationary liquid oxygen system, purchase; includes use of reservoir, contents indicator, regulator, flowmeter, humidifier, nebulizer, cannula or mask, and tubing</td>
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<tr>
<td>E0441</td>
<td>Stationary oxygen contents, gaseous, 1 month's supply = 1 unit</td>
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<tr>
<td>E0442</td>
<td>Stationary oxygen contents, liquid, 1 month's supply = 1 unit</td>
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<tr>
<td>E0443</td>
<td>Portable oxygen contents, gaseous, 1 month's supply = 1 unit</td>
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<tr>
<td>E0444</td>
<td>Portable oxygen contents, liquid, 1 month's supply = 1 unit</td>
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<tr>
<td>E0445</td>
<td>Oximeter device for measuring blood oxygen levels noninvasively</td>
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<tr>
<td>E1390</td>
<td>Oxygen concentrator, single delivery port, capable of delivering 85 percent or greater oxygen concentration at the prescribed flow rate</td>
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<tr>
<td>E1391</td>
<td>Oxygen concentrator, dual delivery port, capable of delivering 85 percent or greater oxygen concentration at the prescribed flow rate, each</td>
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<tr>
<td>E1392</td>
<td>Portable oxygen concentrator, rental</td>
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<tr>
<td>E1405</td>
<td>Oxygen and water vapor enriching system with heated delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E1406</td>
<td>Oxygen and water vapor enriching system without heated delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K0738</td>
<td>Portable gaseous oxygen system, rental; home compressor used to fill portable oxygen cylinders; includes portable containers, regulator, flowmeter, humidifier, cannula or mask, and tubing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S8120</td>
<td>Oxygen contents, gaseous, 1 unit equals 1 cubic foot</td>
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<tr>
<td>S8121</td>
<td>Oxygen contents, liquid, 1 unit equals 1 pound</td>
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### ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes that Support Coverage Criteria

<table>
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<th>ICD-10-CM Code</th>
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### Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy developed</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Approval Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Noted in reauthorization criteria for Group 1 that nocturnal hypoxemia doesn’t have to have a qualifying ABG or pulse ox after the first two approvals. Added that a DME company cannot provide the reauthorization pulse ox test, but an independent diagnostic testing facility (IDTF) can, and a home oxygen company can coordinate with an IDTF to do so also. Added criteria for portable oxygen systems in IV.</td>
<td>05/20</td>
<td>07/20</td>
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# Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals

| In sections I and III, clarified that the criteria applies to stationary oxygen systems as well as portable oxygen systems. In section II: specified that the diagnosis list is not all-inclusive, and that there be a cause of severe lung disease or hypoxia; edited diagnosis list; added polysomnography as a qualifying lab results option. Specified that reauthorization criteria in section III applies to adults. Added reauthorization criteria for age <21 years in section IV. Portable oxygen systems: Added that criteria in section I. must be met and specified that portable oxygen system criteria applies to adults. Added “shortness of breath or dyspnea in a pediatric patient without evidence of hypoxemia” to the list of not medically necessary indications for oxygen concentrators. Removed accessory codes. Replaced “members” with “members/enrollees” in all instances. | 09/20 | 09/20 |

## References


## Important Reminder

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. The Health Plan makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. “Health Plan” means a health plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any of such health plan’s affiliates, as applicable.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable Health Plan-level administrative policies and procedures.
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This clinical policy is effective as of the date determined by the Health Plan. The date of posting may not be the effective date of this clinical policy. This clinical policy may be subject to applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a discrepancy between the effective date of this clinical policy and any applicable legal or regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. The Health Plan retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this clinical policy, and additional clinical policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members/enrollees. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members/enrollees. Members/enrollees should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

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Note: For Medicaid members/enrollees, when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the coverage provisions in this clinical policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence. Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this clinical policy.

Note: For Medicare members/enrollees, to ensure consistency with the Medicare National Coverage Determinations (NCD) and Local Coverage Determinations (LCD), all applicable NCDs, LCDs, and Medicare Coverage Articles should be reviewed prior to applying the criteria set forth in this clinical policy. Refer to the CMS website at http://www.cms.gov for additional information.

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