

Manual and Electric Breast Pumps

Disclaimer

Clinical guidelines are developed and adopted to establish evidence-based clinical criteria for utilization management decisions. Clinical guidelines are applicable according to policy and plan type. The Plan may delegate utilization management decisions of certain services to third parties who may develop and adopt their own clinical criteria.

Coverage of services is subject to the terms, conditions, and limitations of a member's policy, as well as applicable state and federal law. Clinical guidelines are also subject to in-force criteria such as the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) national coverage determination (NCD) or local coverage determination (LCD) for Medicare Advantage plans. Please refer to the member's policy documents (e.g., Certificate/Evidence of Coverage, Schedule of Benefits, Plan Formulary) or contact the Plan to confirm coverage.

Summary

The plan members who are pregnant or have recently delivered or adopted an infant are eligible to receive a breast pump to assist with the expression of breast milk for the purpose of infant nutrition. The use of breast pumps to assist with nursing has expanded in the last decade worldwide as both a medical adjunct to support milk let-down (output), and as a tool to accommodate working mothers both in and outside the home. Human milk contains the optimal mix of nutrients for most newborn infants, with the exception of some infants with specific medical conditions. Long- and short-term benefits to the lactating (breastfeeding) mother and to the newborn infant are well documented in the medical literature. Medical professionals around the world recommend exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life in most instances; among these are the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). More specifically, AAP recommends the continuation of breastfeeding with complimentary foods for 2 years or more.

In addition to medical benefits, human breast milk is a convenient source of infant nutrition as it does not require mixing and warming. Additionally, it is free and can save hundreds of dollars of formula costs per month. Maternal health benefits have also been linked to breast feeding. Studies have found that breastfeeding for greater than twelve months is associated with decreased incidence of maternal diabetes, hypertension, breast cancer, and ovarian cancer. In order to prevent HIV transmission, breastfeeding is not recommended for mothers infected with HIV. For suspected or confirmed COVID-19 mothers, ACOG's current stance is that there is no contraindication for breastfeeding as the majority of data has not demonstrated SARS-CoV-2 virus transmission in breastmilk.

The purchase or rental of a breast pump must be obtained through an in-network Durable Medical Equipment (DME) provider (unless the member has out-of-network benefits). A prescription from a health-care provider (physician, nurse practitioner, midwife, or lactation consultant) may be required by some DME providers.

Definitions

“Breast Pumps” are mechanical devices used by lactating mothers to initiate and maintain expression of human breast milk.

The rising awareness of the benefits of breastfeeding has driven growth in the breast pump market, which now offers a large array of breast pump models and types. The plan recognizes three types of breast pumps, which are the most commonly identified in retail and medical venues:

1. “Manual Breast Pumps” are non-powered devices designed to express breast milk using suction which is created through a manual process. This type of pump is lightweight, portable, inexpensive, and very easy to handle. The manual breast pump is intended for one user only. Manual breast pumps are sold by lactation and DME providers as well as in some retail stores. Manual breast pumps should not be shared because of the risk of infection transmission across multiple users.
2. “Standard Electric Breast Pumps” contain an electric or battery-powered suction device that creates pulsating suction that mimics infant use. These pumps may be labeled as “single” or “double,” referencing the ability to pump a single breast or both breasts at the same time. Some electric pumps may have a battery pack to aid pumping when an electric outlet is not available. Standard electric breast pumps are intended for one user only. Standard electric breast pumps are sold by lactation and DME providers as well as in some retail stores. Standard electric breast pumps should not be shared because of the risk of infection transmission across multiple users.
3. “Hospital-Grade, Heavy-Duty Electric Breast Pumps” are recommended for use in specific medical conditions in mother and infant. These breast pumps are approved for reuse, as they may be sterilized between users. Hospital-grade breast pumps are rented for use to a medically eligible lactating woman and are usually leased by a hospital. Hospital-grade, heavy-duty breast pumps are not available for purchase commercially.

Note: The term “hospital-grade breast pump” has taken on commercial use as breast pump makers have improved the strength and quality of commercially available pumps. The term is not recognized by the FDA and does not indicate that a pump is used in or by hospitals. Pumps available for sale on the open market have little regulation as to their label and there is no consistent quality standard for this classification.

Clinical Indications

General Clinical Indications

Breast pumps are medically necessary when ONE of the following criteria are met:

1. A Plan member who is in the third trimester of pregnancy and desires to breastfeed after delivery; *or*
2. A Plan member who has recently delivered an infant and desires to breastfeed; *or*
3. A female Plan member who has recently adopted an infant and intends to induce lactation under the guidance of a healthcare professional.

Manual Breast Pumps or Standard Electric Breast Pumps

Manual breast pumps and standard electric breast pumps are single user devices and do not require prior authorization to determine medical necessity. Manual breast pumps and standard electric breast pumps are eligible for reimbursement when ALL of the following criteria are met:

1. One of the criteria in General Clinical Indications (above) are met; *and*
2. A clearly delineated prescription for a health care provider (e.g., DME vendor) is provided when required.

Members may request the selected device during the last trimester of pregnancy and the post-partum period.

Hospital-Grade, Heavy-Duty Breast Pumps

"Hospital Grade" breast pumps are available for rental when ALL of the following criteria are met:

1. General clinical indications (above) are met; *and*
2. Prescription from a healthcare provider (physician, nurse practitioner, midwife, or lactation consultant) indicating the medical benefit to mother or infant; *and*
3. Documentation of medical necessity by a health-care provider indicating 1 or more of the following:
 - a. NICU admission or prolonged hospitalization of the delivered infant(s); *or*
 - b. Multiple births in which a health care provider has determined that a standard electric pump would not be beneficial; *or*
 - c. Premature birth(s) in which a health care provider has determined that a standard electric pump would not be beneficial; *or*
 - d. Infants with oral anomalies (i.e., cleft palate); *or*
 - e. Infants with developmental delay (i.e., genetic syndromes); *or*
 - f. Infants with difficulty establishing maternal milk supply; *or*
 - g. Maternal conditions including, but not limited to mastitis for which a health care provider has determined that a standard electric pump would not be beneficial.

In most cases, medical necessity for a hospital grade breast pump can only be established following delivery. However, in instances where a congenital anomaly or other condition is identified prior to delivery, a provider can request the device for a member during the last-trimester of their pregnancy.

Adoption

It is recommended that adoptive mothers who intend to breastfeed request and begin using, under the guidance of a licensed practitioner, a selected breast pump device at least two months prior to the date they anticipate beginning breastfeeding. In most circumstances, either a manual or standard electric breast pump may be considered.

Medically Necessary Accessories

A breast pump rental or purchase includes medically necessary accessories for the pump to operate. This includes any ONE of the following: standard power adaptor (if electric), tubing adaptors, tubing, locking rings, bottles specific to breast pump operation, caps for bottles that are specific to the breast pump, valves, filters, and breast shield and/or splash protector for use with the breast pump.

Experimental or Investigational / Not Medically Necessary

The following items are considered comfort or convenience items, are available over-the-counter, or are considered not medically necessary:

- Baby weight scales
- Batteries, battery-powered adaptors, and battery packs
- Bottles which are not specific to breast pump operation including the associated bottle nipples, caps and lids
- Breast milk storage bags, ice-packs, labels, labeling lids, and other similar products
- Breast pump cleaning supplies including soap, sprays, wipes, steam cleaning bags and other similar products
- Creams, ointments, and other products that relieve breasts or nipples
- Electrical power adapters for travel
- Garments or other products that allow hands-free pump operation
- More than 1 pump per pregnancy (unless pump damage/failure or the particular type of pump the mother currently has is not effective for retrieving breast milk):
 - Only one pump per pregnancy is considered medically necessary for the duration of breastfeeding.
 - In the case of a pregnancy resulting in multiple births, only one breast pump is considered medically necessary per pregnancy.
- Nursing bras, bra pads, breast shells, nipple shields, and other similar products
- Travel bags, and other similar travel or carrying accessories

Applicable Billing Codes (HCPCS/CPT Codes)

Codes considered medically necessary if clinical criteria are met:

Table 1	
CPT/HCPCS Codes considered medically necessary if criteria are met:	
<i>Code</i>	<i>Description</i>
E0602	Breast pump, manual, any type
E0603	Breast pump, electric (AC and/or DC), any type

Table 2	
CPT/HCPCS Codes considered medically necessary if criteria are met:	
<i>Code</i>	<i>Description</i>
E0604	Breast pump, hospital grade, electric (AC and/or DC), any type
ICD-10 codes considered medically necessary if criteria are met:	
<i>Code</i>	<i>Description</i>
O09.03	Supervision of pregnancy with history of infertility, third trimester
O09.13	Supervision of pregnancy with history of ectopic pregnancy, third trimester
O09.A3	Supervision of pregnancy with history of molar pregnancy, third trimester
O09.213	Supervision of pregnancy with history of pre-term labor, third trimester
O09.293	Supervision of pregnancy with other poor reproductive or obstetric history, third trimester
O09.33	Supervision of pregnancy with insufficient antenatal care, third trimester
O09.43	Supervision of pregnancy with grand multiparity, third trimester
O09.513	Supervision of elderly primigravida, third trimester
O09.523	Supervision of elderly multigravida, third trimester
O09.623	Supervision of young multigravida, third trimester

O09.73	Supervision of high risk pregnancy due to social problems, third trimester
O09.813	Supervision of pregnancy resulting from assisted reproductive technology, third trimester
O09.893	Supervision of other high risk pregnancies, third trimester
O09.93	Supervision of high risk pregnancy, unspecified, third trimester
O91.011 - O91.03	Infections of breast associated with pregnancy, the puerperium and lactation
P00.0 - P96.9	Other disorders originating in the perinatal period
Q35.1 - Q37.9	Cleft lip and cleft palate
Q38.0 - Q38.8	Other congenital malformations of tongue, mouth and pharynx
Z34.00 - Z34.93	Encounter for supervision of normal pregnancy
Z37.0	Single live birth
Z37.2	Twins, both liveborn
Z37.3	Twins, one liveborn and one stillborn
Z37.50 - Z37.59	Other multiple births, all liveborn
Z37.60- Z37.69	Other multiple births, some liveborn
Z39.0 - Z39.2	Encounter for maternal postpartum care and examination
Z76.2	Encounter for health supervision and care of other healthy infant and child
Z76.81	Expectant parent(s) prebirth pediatrician visit

Codes considered medically necessary for breast pump accessories listed in this guideline:

Table 3	
<i>Code</i>	<i>Description</i>
A4281	Tubing for breast pump, replacement

A4282	Adapter for breast pump, replacement
A4283	Cap for breast pump bottle, replacement
A4284	Breast shield and splash protector for use with breast pump, replacement
A4285	Polycarbonate bottle for use with breast pump, replacement
A4286	Locking ring for breast pump, replacement

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