Pulse Oximetry for Home Use

Coverage and Payment Policy

Pulse oximetry, expressed as SaO₂, is a method of measuring the oxygen saturation of the blood in order to provide information required for monitoring the effectiveness or adjustment of oxygen therapy.

This service requires prior authorization.

The prescribing provider must submit the following information:

A. Short term use of oximetry: (less than 10 months)
   a. When weaning a beneficiary from home oxygen therapy; or
   b. When a change in the beneficiary's physical condition while on oxygen therapy requires a change in the prescribed oxygen flow rate; or
   c. To determine the beneficiary's oxygen requirement during ambulation, exercise or sleep; or
   d. To determine the appropriate oxygen flow requirement; or
   e. To determine the appropriate home oxygen for beneficiaries with neuromuscular disease involving muscles of respiration, with chronic lung disease, or with severe cardiopulmonary disease;

And

A trained caregiver or the beneficiary is capable of adjusting oxygen flow as prescribed.

B. Long term use: (10 months or longer)
   a. The beneficiary has a tracheostomy or uses a ventilator and requires monitoring;

And

A trained caregiver or the beneficiary is capable of adjusting oxygen flow as prescribed.

Approved by:  

Jerry Fingert, MD  

Associate Medical Director

Date: 23 June 2006

Reviewed: __________________________

Revised: __________________________