

Ventilators

Coverage and Payment Policy

Volume or pressure ventilators are medically necessary for members who require breathing assistance by an external mechanical device. A volume or pressure support ventilator is used for mechanically assisted breathing using an electrically powered device that forces oxygenated or room air into the lungs and allows time for exhalation. Members requiring ventilators will generally have neuromuscular disorders, thoracic restrictive disorders or chronic respiratory failure consequent to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

This service requires prior authorization.

Ventilators are supplied on a continuous rental basis and all associated supplies are included in the rental fee.

Backup Ventilators:

A backup ventilator is defined as an identical or similar device used to meet the same medical needs for the member but provided at the bedside as a precaution in case of malfunction of the primary ventilator.

Requests for a backup ventilator will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

Second Ventilator:

A second ventilator is one which serves a different purpose than the primary ventilator, as determined by the patient's medical needs. Medical documentation must indicate the specific needs the second ventilator will address:

Approved by: Jerry Fingerut Associate Medical Director
Jerry Fingerut, MD

Date: 14 July, 2015

Reviewed: _____

Revised: _____