

MUCUS CLEARANCE DEVICES

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I. HCPCS PROCEDURE CODES

A7025, A7026, E0480, E0482 - E0484, S8185

II. DESCRIPTION

A. Mucus clearance devices are designed to clear mucus secretions from the lungs of patients with mucociliary clearance impairment.

B. Some mucus clearance devices resemble a combination of a smoker's pipe and a referee's whistle. It consists of a hardened plastic mouthpiece at one end, a plastic perforated cover at the opposite end, and a valve on the inside created by a high-density stainless steel ball resting in a plastic circular cone.

C. Other bronchial drainage systems include an air oscillator and an inflatable vest and uses high-frequency chest wall oscillations, which also clear mucus from the airway wall. This type of system is a mechanical form of Chest Physical Therapy (CPT) used as an alternative to conventional CPT in patients with Cystic Fibrosis (CF).

III. POLICY

A. Mucus clearances may be cost-shared for beneficiaries with mucus producing lung diseases, including, but not limited to CF and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) (which encompasses both chronic bronchitis and emphysema), and for beneficiaries with secretory impairment that requires mucus clearance.

B. The mucus clearance device used must be U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved. Coverage can only begin effective the date of FDA approval.

IV. EXCLUSION

Intrapulmonary Percussive Ventilation (IPV) (Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code E0481) for the treatment of CF is unproven.

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