POLICY SUMMARY

Overview
Pressure reducing support surfaces are a type of durable medical equipment (DME) used for the care of pressure sores, also known as pressure ulcers. Pressure ulcers are lesions caused by unrelieved pressure resulting in damage of underlying tissue. A major distinction between support surfaces is that some are powered by electricity and others are not. They may be categorized into the following three groups:

• Group 1 support surfaces are generally designed to either replace a standard hospital or home mattress or as an overlay placed on top of a standard hospital or home mattress. Products in this category include mattresses, pressure pads and mattress overlays (foam, air, water, or gel).
• Group 2 support surfaces are generally designed to either replace a standard hospital or home mattress or as an overlay placed on top of a standard hospital or home mattress. Products in this category include powered air flotation beds, powered pressure reducing air mattresses, and non-powered advanced pressure reducing mattresses.
• Group 3 support surfaces are complete bed systems, known as air-fluidized beds, which use the circulation of filtered air through silicone beads. For additional information, please reference the Medicare Advantage Policy Guideline titled Air-Fluidized Bed (NCD 280.8).

For any item to be covered by UnitedHealthcare, it must:
• Be eligible for a defined UnitedHealthcare benefit category
• Be reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of illness or injury or to improve the functioning of a malformed body member
• Meet all other applicable UnitedHealthcare statutory and regulatory requirements.

Guidelines - Group 1
A group 1 mattress overlay or mattress (E0181-E0189, E0196-E0199, and A4640) is covered if one of the following three criteria is met:
1. The beneficiary is completely immobile - i.e., beneficiary cannot make changes in body position without assistance, OR
2. The beneficiary has limited mobility - i.e., beneficiary cannot independently make changes in body position significant enough to alleviate pressure and at least one of conditions below, OR
3. The beneficiary has any stage pressure ulcer on the trunk or pelvis AND at least one of conditions below.

Conditions for criteria 2 and 3 (in each case the medical record must document the severity of the condition sufficiently to demonstrate the medical necessity for a pressure reducing support surface):

Related Medicare Advantage Policy Guidelines
• Air-Fluidized Bed (NCD 280.8)
• Hospital Beds (NCD 280.7)
• KX Modifier

Related Medicare Advantage Reimbursement Policies
• Durable Medical Equipment Charges in a Skilled Nursing Facility Policy, Professional
• Durable Medical Equipment, Orthotics and Prosthetics Multiple Frequency Policy, Professional

Related Medicare Advantage Coverage Summary
• Durable Medical Equipment (DME), Prosthetics, Corrective Appliances/Orthotics (Non-Foot Orthotics) and Medical Supplies Grid
• Impaired nutritional status
• Fecal or urinary incontinence
• Altered sensory perception
• Compromised circulatory status

When the coverage criteria for a group 1 mattress overlay or mattress are not met, the claim will be denied as not reasonable and necessary.

The support surface provided for the beneficiary should be one in which the beneficiary does not "bottom out". Bottoming out is the finding that an outstretched hand, placed palm up between the undersurface of the mattress overlay or mattress and the beneficiary's bony prominence (coccyx or lateral trochanter), can readily palpate the bony prominence. This bottoming out criterion should be tested with the beneficiary in the supine position with their head flat, in the supine position with their head slightly elevated (no more than 30 degrees), and in the side-lying position.

Guidelines – Group 2
A group 2 support surface is covered if the beneficiary meets at least one of the following three Criteria (1, 2 or 3):

1. The beneficiary has multiple stage II pressure ulcers located on the trunk or pelvis which have failed to improve over the past month, during which time the beneficiary has been on a comprehensive ulcer treatment program including each of the following:
   • Use of an appropriate group 1 support surface, and
   • Regular assessment by a nurse, physician, or other licensed healthcare practitioner, and
   • Appropriate turning and positioning, and
   • Appropriate wound care, and
   • Appropriate management of moisture/incontinence, and
   • Nutritional assessment and intervention consistent with the overall plan of care

2. The beneficiary has large or multiple stage III or IV pressure ulcer(s) on the trunk or pelvis,

3. The beneficiary had a myocutaneous flap or skin graft for a pressure ulcer on the trunk or pelvis within the past 60 days, and has been on a group 2 or 3 support surface immediately prior to discharge from a hospital or nursing facility within the past 30 days

If the beneficiary is on a group 2 surface, there should be a care plan established by the physician or home care nurse which includes the above elements. The support surface provided for the beneficiary should be one in which the beneficiary does not "bottom out".

When a group 2 surface is covered following a myocutaneous flap or skin graft, coverage generally is limited to 60 days from the date of surgery.

When the stated coverage criteria for a group 2 mattress or bed are not met, a claim will be denied as not reasonable and necessary.

Continued use of a group 2 support surface is covered until the ulcer is healed, or if healing does not continue, there is documentation in the medical record to show that:
• Other aspects of the care plan are being modified to promote healing, or
• The use of the group 2 support surface is reasonable and necessary for wound management.

Guidelines – Group 3
Group 3 support surfaces are complete bed systems, known as air-fluidized beds, which use the circulation of filtered air through silicone beads.

Coverage of a group 3 support surface is limited to bed-ridden or chair-bound patients with stage III or stage IV pressure ulcers that without the use of an air-fluidized bed would be institutionalized. For additional information, please reference the Medicare Advantage Policy Guideline titled Air-Fluidized Bed (NCD 280.8).

KX Modifier
Suppliers must add a KX modifier to a code only if all of the criteria in the "Coverage Indications, Limitations and/or Medical Necessity" section of the related CMS Local Coverage Determination (LCD) have been met and evidence of such is maintained in the supplier's files. This information must be available upon request. For additional information, please reference the Medicare Advantage Policy Guideline titled KX Modifier.

Appropriate use of the KX modifier is the responsibility of the supplier. The supplier should maintain adequate communication on an ongoing basis with the clinician providing the wound care in order to accurately determine that use of the KX modifier still reflects the clinical conditions which meet the criteria for coverage of a group 2 support surface.
surface, and that adequate documentation exists in the medical record reflecting these conditions. Such documentation should not be submitted with a claim but should be available upon request.

Documentation Requirements
Suppliers are reminded that all UnitedHealthcare coverage and documentation requirements for Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, & Supplies (DMEPOS) also apply. There must be sufficient information included in the medical record to demonstrate that all of the applicable coverage criteria are met. This information must be available upon request.

Related Clinical Information
A beneficiary needing a pressure reducing support surface should have a care plan which has been established by the beneficiary’s physician or home care nurse, which is documented in the beneficiary's medical records, and which generally should include the following:
- Education of the beneficiary and caregiver on the prevention and/or management of pressure ulcers
- Regular assessment by a nurse, physician, or other licensed healthcare practitioner
- Appropriate turning and positioning
- Appropriate wound care (for a stage II, III, or IV ulcer/pressure injury)
- Appropriate management of moisture/incontinence
- Nutritional assessment and intervention consistent with the overall plan of care

Prescription (Order) Requirements
All items billed to UnitedHealthcare require a prescription. An order for each item billed must be signed and dated by the prescribing physician/practitioner, kept on file by the supplier, and made available upon request. Items dispensed and/or billed that do not meet these prescription requirements and those below must be submitted with an EY modifier added to each affected HCPCS code.

Written Orders Prior To Delivery
A detailed written order prior to delivery (WOPD) is required for support surfaces. The supplier must have received a WOPD that has been both signed and dated by the treating physician and meets the requirements for a DWO before dispensing the item.

Detailed Written Orders
A detailed written order (DWO) is required before billing. Someone other than the physician/practitioner may complete the DWO. However, the prescribing physician/practitioner must review the content and sign and date the document. It must contain:
- Beneficiary’s name
- Date of the order and the start date, if start date is different from the date of the order
- Detailed description of the item(s) (see below for specific requirements for selected items)
- Supplies – list all supplies that are separately billable, and for each include the frequency of use (if applicable), and the quantity dispensed
- Prescribing physician/practitioner’s signature and signature date

For the “Date of the order” described above, use the date the supplier is contacted by the prescribing physician/practitioner (for verbal orders) or the date entered by the prescribing physician/practitioner (for written dispensing orders).

Frequency of use information on orders must contain detailed instructions for use and specific amounts to be dispensed. Reimbursement shall be based on the specific utilization amount only.

Orders that only state “PRN” or “as needed” utilization estimates for replacement frequency, use, or consumption are not acceptable.

The detailed description in the written order may be either a narrative description or a brand name/model number. Signature and date stamps are not allowed. Signatures must comply with the CMS signature requirements. The DWO must be available upon request.

An exception to the requirement for a detailed written order applies in those limited instances in which the prescribing practitioner is also the supplier and is permitted to furnish specific items of DMEPOS and fulfill the role of the supplier in accordance with any applicable laws and policies. In such cases, a separate order is not required, but the medical record must still contain all of the required order elements.
A prescription is not considered as part of the medical record. Medical information intended to demonstrate compliance with coverage criteria may be included on the prescription but must be corroborated by information contained in the medical record.

**Medical Record Information**

**Continued Medical Need**
For all DMEPOS items, the initial justification for medical need is established at the time the item(s) is first ordered; therefore, beneficiary medical records demonstrating that the item is reasonable and necessary are created just prior to, or at the time of, the creation of the initial prescription. For purchased items, initial months of a rental item or for initial months of ongoing supplies or drugs, information justifying reimbursement will come from this initial time period. Entries in the beneficiary's medical record must have been created prior to, or at the time of, the initial date of service (DOS) to establish whether the initial reimbursement was justified based upon the applicable coverage policy.

For ongoing supplies and rental DME items, in addition to information described above that justifies the initial provision of the item(s) and/or supplies, there must be information in the beneficiary's medical record to support that the item continues to be used by the beneficiary and remains reasonable and necessary. Information used to justify continued medical need must be timely for the DOS under review. Any of the following may serve as documentation justifying continued medical need:
- A recent order by the treating physician/practitioner for refills
- A recent change in prescription
- Timely documentation in the beneficiary's medical record showing usage of the item

Timely documentation is defined as a record in the preceding 12 months unless otherwise specified elsewhere in the policy.

This information must be kept on file and be available upon request.

**Continued Use**
Continued use describes the ongoing utilization of supplies or a rental item by a beneficiary.

Suppliers are responsible for monitoring utilization of DMEPOS rental items and supplies. No monitoring of purchased items or capped rental items that have converted to a purchase is required. Suppliers must discontinue billing UnitedHealthcare when rental items or ongoing supply items are no longer being used by the beneficiary.

Beneficiary medical records or supplier records may be used to confirm that a DMEPOS item continues to be used by the beneficiary. Any of the following may serve as documentation that an item submitted for reimbursement continues to be used by the beneficiary:
- Timely documentation in the beneficiary's medical record showing usage of the item, related option/accessories and supplies
- Supplier records documenting the request for refill/replacement of supplies in compliance with the Refill Documentation Requirements (This is deemed to be sufficient to document continued use for the base item, as well)
- Supplier records documenting beneficiary confirmation of continued use of a rental item

Timely documentation is defined as a record in the preceding 12 months unless otherwise specified elsewhere in this policy.

**Proof of Delivery**
Proof of delivery (POD) is a Supplier Standard and DMEPOS suppliers are required to maintain POD documentation in their files. For medical review purposes, POD serves to assist in determining correct coding and billing information for claims submitted for UnitedHealthcare reimbursement. Regardless of the method of delivery, UnitedHealthcare must be able to determine from delivery documentation that the supplier properly coded the item(s), that the item(s) delivered are the same item(s) submitted for UnitedHealthcare reimbursement and that the item(s) are intended for, and received by, a specific UnitedHealthcare beneficiary.

Suppliers, their employees, or anyone else having a financial interest in the delivery of the item are prohibited from signing and accepting an item on behalf of a beneficiary (i.e., acting as a designee on behalf of the beneficiary). The signature and date the beneficiary or designee accepted delivery should be legible. If the signature of the designee is not legible, the supplier/shipping service should note the name of the designee on the delivery slip.

For the purpose of the delivery methods noted below, designee is defined as any person who can sign and accept the delivery of DMEPOS on behalf of the beneficiary.
Proof of delivery documentation must be available on request. All services that do not have appropriate proof of delivery from the supplier will be denied and overpayments will be requested.

Suppliers are required to maintain POD documentation in their files. As a general Medicare rule, the date of service shall be the date of delivery. For items addressed in this policy, there are two methods of delivery:
- Delivery directly to the beneficiary or authorized representative
- Delivery via shipping or delivery service

**Method 1—Direct Delivery to the Beneficiary by the Supplier**
Suppliers may deliver directly to the beneficiary or the designee. In this case, POD to a beneficiary must be a signed and dated delivery slip. The POD record must include:
- Beneficiary's name
- Delivery address
- Sufficiently detailed description to identify the item(s) being delivered (e.g., brand name, serial number, narrative description)
- Quantity delivered
- Date delivered
- Beneficiary (or designee) signature and date of signature

The date of signature on the delivery slip must be the date that the DMEPOS item was received by the beneficiary or designee. The date of delivery may be entered by the beneficiary, designee or the supplier. When the supplier's delivery documents have both a supplier-entered date and a beneficiary or beneficiary's designee signature date on the document, the beneficiary or beneficiary's designee-entered date is the date of service. In instances where the item is delivered directly by the supplier, the date the beneficiary received the DMEPOS item must be the date of service on the claim.

**Method 2—Delivery via Shipping or Delivery Service Directly to a Beneficiary**
If the supplier utilizes a shipping service or mail order, the POD documentation must be a complete record tracking the item(s) from the DMEPOS supplier to the beneficiary. An example of acceptable proof of delivery would include both the supplier's own detailed shipping invoice and the delivery service's tracking information. The supplier's record must be linked to the delivery service record by some clear method like the delivery service's package identification number or supplier's invoice number for the package sent to the beneficiary. The POD record must include:
- Beneficiary's name
- Delivery address
- Delivery service's package identification number, supplier invoice number or alternative method that links the supplier's delivery documents with the delivery service's records
- Sufficiently detailed description to identify the item(s) being delivered (e.g., brand name, serial number, narrative description)
- Quantity delivered
- Date delivered
- Evidence of delivery

If a supplier utilizes a shipping service or mail order, suppliers have two options for the date of service to use on the claim.
1. Suppliers may use the shipping date as the DOS. The shipping date is defined as the date the delivery/shipping service label is created or the date the item is retrieved by the shipping service for delivery. However, such dates should not demonstrate significant variation.
2. Suppliers may use the date of delivery as the DOS on the claim.

Suppliers may also utilize a return postage-paid delivery invoice from the beneficiary or designee as a POD. This type of POD record must contain the information specified above.

**Equipment Retained from a Prior Payer**
When a beneficiary receiving a DMEPOS item from another payer (including a Medicare Advantage plan) becomes eligible for the Medicare FFS program, the first Medicare claim for that item or service is considered a new initial Medicare claim for the item. Even if there is no change in the beneficiary's medical condition, the beneficiary must meet all coverage, coding and documentation requirements for the DMEPOS item in effect on the date of service of the initial Medicare claim.
Repair/Replacement

Repairs
CMS generally defines repair as to fix or mend and to put the item back in good condition after damage or wear.

A new physician/practitioner’s order is not needed for repairs.

In the case of repairs to a beneficiary-owned DMEPOS item, if Medicare paid for the base equipment initially, medical necessity for the base equipment has been established. With respect to Medicare reimbursement for the repair, there are two documentation requirements:
- The treating physician/practitioner must document that the DMEPOS item being repaired continues to be reasonable and necessary; and,
- Either the treating physician/practitioner or the supplier must document that the repair itself is reasonable and necessary.

The supplier must maintain detailed records describing the need for and nature of all repairs including a detailed explanation of the justification for any component or part replaced as well as the labor time to restore the item to its functionality.

Replacement
CMS generally defines replacement as the provision of an entirely identical or nearly identical item when it is lost, stolen or irreparably damaged.

Replacement of items due to irreparable wear takes into consideration the Reasonable Useful Lifetime (RUL) of the item. The RUL of DME is determined through program instructions. In the absence of program instructions, UnitedHealthcare may determine the RUL, but in no cases can it be less than 5 years. If the item has been in continuous use by the beneficiary on either rental or purchase basis for its RUL, the beneficiary may elect to obtain a replacement.

UnitedHealthcare does not cover replacement for items in the frequent and substantial servicing payment category, oxygen equipment, or inexpensive or routinely purchased rental items.

A treating physician’s order is needed to reaffirm the medical necessity of the item for replacement of an item.

APPLICABLE CODES

The following list(s) of codes is provided for reference purposes only and may not be all inclusive. Listing of a code in this guideline does not imply that the service described by the code is a covered or non-covered health service. Benefit coverage for health services is determined by the member specific benefit plan document and applicable laws that may require coverage for a specific service. The inclusion of a code does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee claim payment. Other Policies and Guidelines may apply.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HCPCS Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Group 1 Codes</strong></td>
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| A4640 | Replacement pad for use with medically necessary alternating pressure pad owned by patient Characterized as:  
- An air pump or blower which provides either sequential inflation and deflation of air cells or a low interface pressure throughout the overlay, and  
- Inflated cell height of the air cells through which air is being circulated is 2.5 inches or greater, and  
- Height of the air chambers, proximity of the air chambers to one another, frequency of air cycling (for alternating pressure overlays), and air pressure provide adequate patient lift, reduce pressure and prevent bottoming out  
Code A4640 should only be billed when provided as a replacement component for a beneficiary-owned (E0181) mattress overlay system. |
| A9270 | Noncovered item or service  
A foam overlay or mattress which does not have a waterproof cover should be coded using A9270. (Status Indicator of “N”, Not Covered by Medicare) |
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<tr>
<th>HCPCS Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group 1 Codes</td>
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</table>
| E0181 | Powered pressure reducing mattress overlay/pad, alternating, with pump, includes heavy-duty Characterized as:  
- An air pump or blower which provides either sequential inflation and deflation of air cells or a low interface pressure throughout the overlay, and  
- Inflated cell height of the air cells through which air is being circulated is 2.5 inches or greater, and  
- Height of the air chambers, proximity of the air chambers to one another, frequency of air cycling (for alternating pressure overlays), and air pressure provide adequate patient lift, reduce pressure and prevent bottoming out |
| E0182 | Pump for alternating pressure pad, for replacement only Characterized as:  
- An air pump or blower which provides either sequential inflation and deflation of air cells or a low interface pressure throughout the overlay, and  
- Inflated cell height of the air cells through which air is being circulated is 2.5 inches or greater, and  
- Height of the air chambers, proximity of the air chambers to one another, frequency of air cycling (for alternating pressure overlays), and air pressure provide adequate patient lift, reduce pressure and prevent bottoming out  
Code E0182 should only be billed when provided as a replacement component for a beneficiary-owned (E0181) mattress overlay system. |
| E0184 | Dry pressure mattress Characterized as:  
- Foam height of 5 inches or greater, and  
- Foam with a density and other qualities that provide adequate pressure reduction, and  
- Durable, waterproof cover, and  
- Can be placed directly on a hospital bed frame |
| E0185 | Gel or gel-like pressure pad for mattress, standard mattress length and width Characterized as a gel or gel-like layer with a height of 2 inches or greater. |
| E0186 | Air pressure mattress  
An air, water or gel pressure mattress’ (E0186, E0187, E0196) are characterized by all of the following:  
- Height of 5 inches or greater of the air, water, or gel layer (respectively), and  
- Durable, waterproof cover, and  
- Can be placed directly on a hospital bed frame |
| E0187 | Water pressure mattress  
An air, water or gel pressure mattress’ (E0186, E0187, E0196) are characterized by all of the following:  
- Height of 5 inches or greater of the air, water, or gel layer (respectively), and  
- Durable, waterproof cover, and  
- Can be placed directly on a hospital bed frame |
| E0188 | Synthetic sheepskin pad |
| E0189 | Lambswool sheepskin pad, any size |
| E0196 | Gel pressure mattress  
An air, water or gel pressure mattress’ (E0186, E0187, E0196) are characterized by all of the following:  
- Height of 5 inches or greater of the air, water, or gel layer (respectively), and  
- Durable, waterproof cover, and  
- Can be placed directly on a hospital bed frame |
| E0197 | Air pressure pad for mattress, standard mattress length and width  
Characterized by interconnected air cells having a cell height of 3 inches or greater that are inflated with an air pump. |
| E0198 | Water pressure pad for mattress, standard mattress length and width  
Characterized by a filled height of 3 inches or greater. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HCPCS Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Group 1 Codes</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| E0199 | Dry pressure pad for mattress, standard mattress length and width Characterized by all of the following:  
- Base thickness of 2” or greater and peak height of 3” or greater if it is a convoluted overlay (e.g., eggcrate) or an overall height of at least 3 inches if it is a non-convoluted overlay, and  
- Foam with a density and other qualities that provide adequate pressure reduction, and  
- Durable, waterproof cover |
| **Group 2 Codes** | |
| E0277 | Powered pressure-reducing air mattress (alternating pressure, low air loss, or powered flotation without low air loss) Characterized by all of the following:  
- An air pump or blower which provides either sequential inflation and deflation of the air cells or a low interface pressure throughout the mattress, and  
- Inflated cell height of the air cells through which air is being circulated is 5 inches or greater, and  
- Height of the air chambers, proximity of the air chambers to one another, frequency of air cycling (for alternating pressure mattresses), and air pressure provide adequate patient lift, reduce pressure and prevent bottoming out, and  
- A surface designed to reduce friction and shear, and  
- Can be placed directly on a hospital bed frame.  
Either alternating pressure mattresses or low air loss mattresses are coded using code E0277. |
| E0371 | Nonpowered advanced pressure reducing overlay for mattress, standard mattress length and width Characterized by all of the following:  
- Height and design of individual cells which provide significantly more pressure reduction than a group 1 overlay and prevent bottoming out, and  
- Total height of 3 inches or greater, and  
- A surface designed to reduce friction and shear, and  
- Documented evidence to substantiate that the product is effective for the treatment of conditions described by the coverage criteria for group 2 support surfaces. |
| E0372 | Powered air overlay for mattress, standard mattress length and width Characterized by all of the following:  
- An air pump or blower which provides either sequential inflation and deflation of the air cells or a low interface pressure throughout the overlay, and  
- Inflated cell height of the air cells through which air is being circulated is 3.5 inches or greater, and  
- Height of the air chambers, proximity of the air chambers to one another, frequency of air cycling (for alternating pressure overlays), and air pressure to provide adequate patient lift, reduce pressure and prevent bottoming out, and  
- A surface designed to reduce friction and shear |
| E0373 | Nonpowered advanced pressure reducing mattress Characterized by all of the following:  
- Height and design of individual cells which provide significantly more pressure reduction than a group 1 mattress and prevent bottoming out, and  
- Total height of 5 inches or greater, and  
- A surface designed to reduce friction and shear, and  
- Documented evidence to substantiate that the product is effective for the treatment of conditions described by the coverage criteria for group 2 support surfaces, and  
- Can be placed directly on a hospital bed frame |
### HCPCS Code

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>Both Group 1 and 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>E1399</td>
<td>Durable Medical Equipment, Miscellaneous Group 1 or 2 support surfaces which do not meet the characteristics specified in the Definitions above, should be coded using code E1399 When code E1399 is billed, the claim must include the manufacturer and the product name/number</td>
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### Modifier

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modifier</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EY</td>
<td>No physician or other health care provider order for this item or service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KX</td>
<td>Requirements specified in the medical policy have been met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RR</td>
<td>Rental (use the RR modifier when DME is to be rented)</td>
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### Place of Service Code

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Pharmacy</td>
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<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Homeless shelter</td>
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<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>Prison/Correctional Facility</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Home</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Assisted living facility</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Group home</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Temporary lodging</td>
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<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Custodial Care Facility</td>
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<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>Intermediate Care Facility/Mentally Retarded</td>
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<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Facility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>Psychiatric Residential Treatment Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Treatment Facility</td>
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### ICD-10 Diagnosis Code

#### Codes for HCPCS codes E0277, E0371, E0372 and E0373

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L89.100</td>
<td>Pressure ulcer of unspecified part of back, unstageable</td>
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<td>L89.102</td>
<td>Pressure ulcer of unspecified part of back, stage 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>L89.103</td>
<td>Pressure ulcer of unspecified part of back, stage 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>L89.104</td>
<td>Pressure ulcer of unspecified part of back, stage 4</td>
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<td>L89.110</td>
<td>Pressure ulcer of right upper back, unstageable</td>
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<td>L89.112</td>
<td>Pressure ulcer of right upper back, stage 2</td>
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<td>Pressure ulcer of right upper back, stage 3</td>
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<td>Pressure ulcer of contiguous site of back, buttock and hip, stage 2</td>
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**DEFINITIONS**

**Air Fluidized Bed:** Combines air fluidized therapy and low air loss therapy on an articulating frame providing patients with relief from bed pressure sores.

**Stage 1 Pressure Injury:** Non-blanchable erythema of intact skin
Intact skin with a localized area of non-blanchable erythema, which may appear differently in darkly pigmented skin. Presence of blanchable erythema or changes in sensation, temperature, or firmness may precede visual changes. Color changes do not include purple or maroon discoloration; these may indicate deep tissue pressure injury.

**Stage 2 Pressure Injury:** Partial-thickness skin loss with exposed dermis
Partial-thickness loss of skin with exposed dermis. The wound bed is viable, pink or red, moist, and may also present as an intact or ruptured serum-filled blister. Adipose (fat) is not visible and deeper tissues are not visible. Granulation tissue, slough and eschar are not present. These injuries commonly result from adverse microclimate and shear in the skin over the pelvis and shear in the heel. This stage should not be used to describe moisture associated skin damage (MASD) including incontinence associated dermatitis (IAD), intertriginous dermatitis (ITD), medical adhesive related skin injury (MARSII), or traumatic wounds (skin tears, burns, abrasions).
**Stage 3 Pressure Injury:** Full-thickness skin loss
Full-thickness loss of skin, in which adipose (fat) is visible in the ulcer and granulation tissue and epibole (rolled wound edges) are often present. Slough and/or eschar may be visible. The depth of tissue damage varies by anatomical location; areas of significant adiposity can develop deep wounds. Undermining and tunneling may occur. Fascia, muscle, tendon, ligament, cartilage and/or bone are not exposed. If slough or eschar obscures the extent of tissue loss this is an Unstageable Pressure Injury.

**Stage 4 Pressure Injury:** Full-thickness skin and tissue loss
Full-thickness skin and tissue loss with exposed or directly palpable fascia, muscle, tendon, ligament, cartilage or bone in the ulcer. Slough and/or eschar may be visible. Epibole (rolled edges), undermining and/or tunneling often occur. Depth varies by anatomical location. If slough or eschar obscures the extent of tissue loss this is an Unstageable Pressure Injury.

**Unstageable Pressure Injury:** Obscured full-thickness skin and tissue loss
Full-thickness skin and tissue loss in which the extent of tissue damage within the ulcer cannot be confirmed because it is obscured by slough or eschar. If slough or eschar is removed, a Stage 3 or Stage 4 pressure injury will be revealed. Stable eschar (i.e. dry, adherent, intact without erythema or fluctuance) on the heel or ischemic limb should not be softened or removed.

**Deep Tissue Pressure Injury:** Persistent non-blanchable deep red, maroon or purple discoloration Intact or non-intact skin with localized area of persistent non-blanchable deep red, maroon, purple discoloration or epidermal separation revealing a dark wound bed or blood filled blister. Pain and temperature change often precede skin color changes. Discoloration may appear differently in darkly pigmented skin. This injury results from intense and/or prolonged pressure and shear forces at the bone-muscle interface. The wound may evolve rapidly to reveal the actual extent of tissue injury, or may resolve without tissue loss. If necrotic tissue, subcutaneous tissue, granulation tissue, fascia, muscle or other underlying structures are visible, this indicates a full thickness pressure injury (Unstageable, Stage 3 or Stage 4). Do not use DTPI to describe vascular, traumatic, neuropathic, or dermatologic conditions.

**Bottoming out:** Is the finding that an outstretched hand can readily palpate the bony prominence (coccyx or lateral trochanter) when it is placed palm up beneath the undersurface of the mattress or overlay and in an area under the bony prominence. This bottoming out criterion should be tested with the beneficiary in the supine position with their head slightly elevated (no more than 30 degrees), and in the side lying position.

**PURPOSE**

The Medicare Advantage Policy Guideline documents are generally used to support UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage claims processing activities and facilitate providers’ submission of accurate claims for the specified services. The document can be used as a guide to help determine applicable:
- Medicare coding or billing requirements, and/or
- Medical necessity coverage guidelines; including documentation requirements.

UnitedHealthcare follows Medicare guidelines such as LCDs, NCDs, and other Medicare manuals for the purposes of determining coverage. It is expected providers retain or have access to appropriate documentation when requested to support coverage. Please utilize the links in the References section below to view the Medicare source materials used to develop this resource document. This document is not a replacement for the Medicare source materials that outline Medicare coverage requirements. Where there is a conflict between this document and Medicare source materials, the Medicare source materials will apply.

**REFERENCES**

**CMS National Coverage Determinations (NCDs)**
NCD 280.1 Durable Medical Equipment Reference List
Reference NCDs: NCD 280.7 Hospital Beds, NCD 280.8 Air Fluidized Beds

**CMS Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs)**

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### CMS Articles

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| A52490 (Pressure Reducing Support Surfaces - Group 2 - Policy Article) | CGS: AL, AR, CO, FL, GA, IL, IN, KY, LA, MI, MN, MS, NC, NM, OH, OK, PR, SC, TN, TX VA, VI, WI, WV  
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| A55426 (Standard Documentation Requirements for All Claims Submitted to DME MACs) | CGS: AL, AR, CO, FL, GA, IL, IN, KY, LA, MI, MN, MS, NC, NM, OH, OK, PR, SC, TN, TX VA, VI, WI, WV  
**Noridian:** AK, AS, AZ, CA, CT, DC, DE, GU, HI, IA, ID, KS, MA, MD, ME, MO, MP, MT, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NV, NY, OR, PA, RI, SD, UT, VT, WA, WV |

### CMS Benefit Policy Manual

**Chapter 15 §110 Durable Medical Equipment - General**

### CMS Claims Processing Manual

**Chapter 20 Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS)**

**Chapter 23 Fee Schedule Administration and Coding Requirements**

### CMS Transmittals

- Transmittal 834, Change Request 10984, Dated 10/12/2018 (Order Requirements When Prescribing Practitioner is Also the Supplier and is Permitted to Furnish Specific Items of Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS))
- Transmittal 4052, Change Request 10422, Dated 05/17/2018 (Removal of KH Modifier from Capped Rental Claims)

### MLN Matters

**Article SE1014, Medicare Policy Regarding Pressure Reducing Surfaces**

### UnitedHealthcare Commercial Policies

**Durable Medical Equipment, Orthotics, Ostomy Supplies, Medical Supplies, and Repairs/Replacements**

**Durable Medical Equipment, Orthotics and Prosthetics Policy, Professional**

### Others

- CGS DME Jurisdiction B Supplier Manual
- CGS DME Jurisdiction C Supplier Manual
- Decision Memo for Air-Fluidized Beds for Pressure Ulcers, CMS Website
- Department of Health and Human Services; Office of Inspector General; Inappropriate Medicare Payments for Pressure Reducing Support Surfaces
- Medicare Program Integrity Manual: Chapter 3 Verifying Potential Errors and Taking Corrective Action; § 3.4.1.1
- Linking LCD and NCD ID Numbers to Edits
- Medicare Program Integrity Manual: Chapter 5 Items and Services Having Special DME Review Considerations
- Noridian DME Jurisdiction A Supplier Manual
- Noridian DME Jurisdiction D Supplier Manual

### GUIDELINE HISTORY/REVISION INFORMATION

Revisions to this summary document do not in any way modify the requirement that services be provided and documented in accordance with the Medicare guidelines in effect on the date of service in question.

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**UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage Policy Guideline**

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**Approved 05/08/2019**
TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Medicare Advantage Policy Guidelines are applicable to UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage Plans offered by UnitedHealthcare and its affiliates.

These Policy Guidelines are provided for informational purposes, and do not constitute medical advice. Treating physicians and healthcare providers are solely responsible for determining what care to provide to their patients. Members should always consult their physician before making any decisions about medical care.

Benefit coverage for health services is determined by the member specific benefit plan document* and applicable laws that may require coverage for a specific service. The member specific benefit plan document identifies which services are covered, which are excluded, and which are subject to limitations. In the event of a conflict, the member specific benefit plan document supersedes the Medicare Advantage Policy Guidelines.

Medicare Advantage Policy Guidelines are developed as needed, are regularly reviewed and updated, and are subject to change. They represent a portion of the resources used to support UnitedHealthcare coverage decision making. UnitedHealthcare may modify these Policy Guidelines at any time by publishing a new version of the policy on this website. Medicare source materials used to develop these guidelines include, but are not limited to, CMS National Coverage Determinations (NCDs), Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs), Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Medicare Program Integrity Manual, Medicare Managed Care Manual, etc. The information presented in the Medicare Advantage Policy Guidelines is believed to be accurate and current as of the date of publication, and is provided on an "AS IS" basis. Where there is a conflict between this document and Medicare source materials, the Medicare source materials will apply.

You are responsible for submission of accurate claims. Medicare Advantage Policy Guidelines are intended to ensure that coverage decisions are made accurately based on the code or codes that correctly describe the health care services provided. UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage Policy Guidelines use Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), or other coding guidelines. References to CPT® or other sources are for definitional purposes only and do not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee claims payment.

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*For more information on a specific member’s benefit coverage, please call the customer service number on the back of the member ID card or refer to the Administrative Guide.