

# Cervical Traction Devices - Policy Article

A52476

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## Contractor Information Article Information

### General Information

**Article ID**

A52476

**Article Title**

Cervical Traction Devices - Policy Article

**Article Type**

Article

**Original Effective Date**

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**Revision Ending Date**

N/A

**Retirement Date**

N/A

**AMA CPT / ADA CDT / AHA NUBC Copyright Statement**

### Article Guidance

**Article Text**

#### NON-MEDICAL NECESSITY COVERAGE AND PAYMENT RULES

For any item to be covered by Medicare, it must 1) be eligible for a defined Medicare benefit category, 2) be reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of illness or injury or to improve the functioning of a malformed body member, and 3) meet all other applicable Medicare statutory and regulatory requirements. Information provided in this policy article relates to determinations other than those based on Social Security Act §1862(a)(1)(A) provisions (i.e. "reasonable and necessary").

Cervical traction devices are covered under the Durable Medical Equipment benefit (Social Security Act §1861(s)(6)). In order for a beneficiary's DME to be eligible for reimbursement, the reasonable and necessary (R&N) requirements set out in the related Local Coverage Determination must be met. In addition, there are specific statutory payment policy requirements, discussed below, that also must be met.

#### REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIFIC DMEPOS ITEMS PURSUANT TO Final Rule 1713 (84 Fed. Reg Vol 217)

Final Rule 1713 (84 Fed. Reg Vol 217) requires a face-to-face encounter and a Written Order Prior to

Delivery (WOPD) for specified HCPCS codes. CMS and the DME MACs provide a list of the specified codes, which is periodically updated. The required Face-to-Face Encounter and Written Order Prior to Delivery List is available [here](#).

Claims for the specified items subject to Final Rule 1713 (84 Fed. Reg Vol 217) that do not meet the face-to-face encounter and WOPD requirements specified in the LCD-related Standard Documentation Requirements Article (A55426) will be denied as not reasonable and necessary. If a supplier delivers an item prior to receipt of a WOPD, it will be denied as not reasonable and necessary. If the WOPD is not obtained prior to delivery, payment will not be made for that item even if a WOPD is subsequently obtained by the supplier. If a similar item is subsequently provided by an unrelated supplier who has obtained a WOPD, it will be eligible for coverage.

## **POLICY SPECIFIC DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS**

In addition to policy specific documentation requirements, there are general documentation requirements that are applicable to all DMEPOS policies. These general requirements are located in the DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS section of the LCD.

Refer to the LCD-related Standard Documentation Requirements article, located at the bottom of this Policy Article under the Related Local Coverage Documents section for additional information regarding GENERAL DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS and the POLICY SPECIFIC DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS discussed below.

## **MODIFIERS**

KX, GA, AND GZ MODIFIERS:

Suppliers must add a KX modifier to code E0849 or E0855 only if all of the criteria in the "Coverage Indications, Limitations and/or Medical Necessity" section of the related LCD have been met and evidence of such is maintained in the supplier's files. This information must be available upon request.

If all of the criteria in the Coverage Indications, Limitations and/or Medical Necessity section in the related LCD have not been met, the GA or GZ modifier must be added to the code. When there is an expectation of a medical necessity denial, suppliers must enter the GA modifier on the claim line if they have obtained a properly executed Advance Beneficiary Notice (ABN) or the GZ modifier if they have not obtained a valid ABN.

Claims lines billed without a KX, GA, or GZ modifier will be rejected as missing information.

## **CODING GUIDELINES**

Code E0855 describes cervical traction devices that provide traction on the cervical anatomy without the use of a door or external frame or stand. Traction may be applied by means of mandibular or occipital pressure.

Code E0856 describes a cervical traction device that may or may not use an external frame and uses an inflatable bladder(s) to generate traction forces.

Code E0860 describes cervical traction devices that provide traction on the cervical anatomy through a system of pulleys and rope and are attached to a door. Traction may be applied in either the upright or supine position.

Code E0849 describes cervical traction devices that provide traction on the cervical anatomy through the use of a free-standing frame. Traction force is applied by means of pneumatic displacement to

anatomical areas other than the mandible (e.g., the occipital region of the skull). Devices described by code E0849 must be capable of generating traction forces greater than 20 pounds. In addition, code E0849 devices allow traction to be applied with alternative vectors of force (e.g., 15 degrees of lateral neck flexion).

Suppliers should contact the Pricing, Data Analysis and Coding (PDAC) Contractor for guidance on the correct coding of these items.

## **Coding Information**

### CPT/HCPCS Codes

N/A

### ICD-10-CM Codes that Support Medical Necessity

N/A

### ICD-10-CM Codes that DO NOT Support Medical Necessity

N/A

### ICD-10-PCS Codes

N/A

### Additional ICD-10 Information

N/A

### Bill Type Codes

Contractors may specify Bill Types to help providers identify those Bill Types typically used to report this service. Absence of a Bill Type does not guarantee that the article does not apply to that Bill Type. Complete absence of all Bill Types indicates that coverage is not influenced by Bill Type and the article should be assumed to apply equally to all claims.

N/A

### Revenue Codes

Contractors may specify Revenue Codes to help providers identify those Revenue Codes typically used to report this service. In most instances Revenue Codes are purely advisory. Unless specified in the article, services reported under other Revenue Codes are equally subject to this coverage determination. Complete absence of all Revenue Codes indicates that coverage is not influenced by Revenue Code and the article should be assumed to apply equally to all Revenue Codes.

N/A

## **Associated Documents**

### **Related Local Coverage Documents**

#### **Articles**

[A55426 - Standard Documentation Requirements for All Claims Submitted to DME MACs](#)

#### **LCDs**

[L33823 - Cervical Traction Devices](#)

### **Related National Coverage Documents**

N/A