CareSource

MEDICAL POLICY STATEMENT
Marketplace

Policy Name & Number	Date Effective
Noninvasive Home Mechanical Ventilation-MP-MM-1796	09/01/2026
Policy Type	
MEDICAL	

Medical Policy Statements are developed from a review of the available evidence-based, clinical information based on and supported by clinical guidelines from medical specialties, peer-reviewed medical and scientific studies, nationally recognized utilization and technology assessment guidelines, and other medical management industry standards to aid in determining the medical necessity of a service. Medically necessary services are defined in the plan-specific Evidence of Coverage, Member Handbooks, Provider Manuals, Medical Policy Statements, and/or other plan policies and procedures.

Medical Policy Statements do not guarantee an authorization or payment of services. Please refer to the plan contract (e.g., Evidence of Coverage, Member Handbook) for the service(s) referenced in the Medical Policy Statement. Except as otherwise required by law, if there is a conflict between the Medical Policy Statement and the plan contract and/or provider agreement, then the plan contract and/or provider agreement will be the controlling document. Reasonable discretion may be used in interpreting and applying this Policy Statement to services provided in a particular case, and the policy may be modified at any time. Medical Policy Statements may be superseded by federal and state laws and regulations, as applicable. In the case of a discrepancy between the Policy Statement's effective date and any applicable legal or regulatory requirement, the law or regulation will govern.

Coverage for mental health and substance use disorder (MH/SUD) benefits are provided at the same level as coverage for medical and surgical (M/S) benefits, as required by the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA). MH/SUD benefits are not subject to limits or requirements that are more restrictive than those that apply to M/S benefits.

This policy applies to the following Marketplace(s):			
☒ **Georgia**	☒ **Indiana**	☒ **Ohio**	☒ **West Virginia**

Table of Contents

A. Subject

Noninvasive Home Mechanical Ventilation

B. Background

This document outlines the medical necessity criteria for a noninvasive home ventilator for a member with stable, chronic respiratory failure. This device does not treat the underlying cause of respiratory failure but functions as supportive therapy, which may include reducing symptoms, improving quality of life, or sustaining or extending life. It may be used intermittently during the day and/or during sleep.

A noninvasive home ventilator will not be reimbursed as such when its sole purpose is to function as a respiratory assistance device, including continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP), auto-titrating PAP, and bilevel airway pressure (BiPAP).

C. Definitions

- **Apnea-Hypopnea Index (AHI)** – The combined average number of apneas and hypopneas that occur per hour of sleep to determine the severity of obstructive sleep apnea (OSA).

Apnea-Hypopnea Index (AHI)		
	Adult AHI	**Pediatric AHI**
Mild OSA	5 -14	1 - 4.9
Moderate OSA	15 - 30	5 - 9.9
Severe OSA	> 30	> 10

- **Bi-level Positive Airway Pressure (BiPAP) Device** – A device that uses mild bi-level or 2 levels of air pressure to keep breathing airways open.
- **Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) Device** – A device that uses mild continuous air pressure to keep breathing airways open.
- **Home Mechanical Ventilation (HMV)** – A device used in the home setting for patients with chronic respiratory failure that delivers respiratory assistance via an invasive (ie, tracheostomy) or noninvasive (ie, nose/mouth mask, mouthpiece, nasal prongs) interface. These devices possess more advanced features than a CPAP/BiPAP machine, which include monitoring, rate control, safety, and backup power features. The ventilator can custom control all phases of the breathing cycle.

D. Policy

I. CareSource utilizes MCG Health criteria to determine medical necessity for noninvasive HMV (E0466). An initial approval for HMV is valid for a maximum of 3 months. A new medical necessity determination thereafter is required every 6 months for continued rental use.

II. Initial Rental of HMV

Medical necessity for the initial coverage of noninvasive HMV is based upon the following conditions in II - IV being met:

A. Congenital central hypoventilation syndrome
B. Chronic lung disease of infancy (eg, bronchopulmonary dysplasia), and patient unable to maintain acceptable pH and PCO_2 without ventilator support
C. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and **ONE OR MORE** of the following:
    1. Chronic hypercapnia (ie, $PaCO_2$ > 45 mm Hg (6.0 kPa)) in stable patient
    2. Noninvasive ventilation during hospitalization with persistent hypercapnia during spontaneous breathing (ie, $PaCO_2$ > 45 mm Hg (6.0 kPa))
    3. Palliative care for end-stage disease and advance directive states no desire for intubation
D. Neuromuscular disorder accompanied by respiratory failure, as indicated by **ALL** the following:
    1. Appropriate neuromuscular disorder, as indicated by **ONE OR MORE** of the following:
        a. amyotrophic lateral sclerosis
        b. congential muscular dystrophy
        c. Duchenne muscular dystrophy
        d. mitochonndrial myopathy
        e. myotonic dystrophy
        f. postpolio syndrome
        g. spinal cord syndrome
        h. spinal muscular atrophy
        i. other neuromuscular disorder accompanied by chronic respiratory failure (eg, multiple sclerosis, myasthenia gravis, Pompe disease)
    2. Documentation of respiratory failure, as indicated by **ONE OR MORE**:
        a. Daytime PCO_2 (arterial or capillary) greater than 45 mm Hg (6.0 kPa)
        b. Forced vital capacity less than 50% of predicted
        c. Forced vital capacity less than 80% of predicted and symptoms of respiratory failure
        d. Maximum inspiratory pressure 60 cm H_2O (5884 Pa) or lower
        e. Maximum sniff nasal inspiratory pressure less than 40 cm H_2O (3923 Pa)
        f. Oxygen saturation less than 88% for 5 consecutive minutes during nocturnal oximetry
        g. Polysomnography demonstrates sleep hypoventilation, as indicated by **ONE OR MORE** of the following:
            i. Adult with sleep-related hypoventilation (ie, arterial, end-tidal, or transcutaneous PCO_2 greater than 55 mm Hg (7.3 kPa) for 10 minutes or longer, or increase in arterial, end-tidal, or transcutaneous PCO_2 of 10 mm Hg (1.3 kPa) or greater above awake supine value resulting in PCO_2 greater than 50 mm Hg (6.7 kPa) for 10 minutes or longer).
            ii. Child with sleep-related hypoventilation (ie, sleeping arterial, end-tidal, or transcutaneous PCO_2 of greater than 50 mm Hg (6.7 kPa) for greater than 25% of total sleep time, or peak sleep end-tidal PCO_2 of 55 mm Hg (7.3 kPa) or greater).

E. Obesity hypoventilation syndrome, as indicated by **ALL** of the following:
   1. BMI > 30
   2. CPAP unsuccessful or not appropriate, as indicated by **ONE OR MORE** of the following:
      a. Comorbid sleep-related hypoventilation (ie, arterial, end-tidal, or transcutaneous PCO_2 greater than 55mm Hg (7.3 kPa) for 10 minutes or longer, or increase in arterial, end-tidal, or transcutaneous PCO_2 of 10 mm Hg (1.3 kPa) or greater above awake supine value resulting in PCO_2 greater than 50 mm Hg (6.7 kPa) for 10 minutes or longer)
      b. Intolerance of CPAP pressures necessary to correct obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) component (ie, difficulty exhaling against fixed airway pressure)
      c. Lack of resolution of hypercarbia, nocturnal desaturation, and OSA despite 3 months of CPAP use
      d. Titration study demonstrates OSA despite CPAP 15 cm H_2O (1471 Pa) that is responsive to BiPAP
   3. Daytime hypercapnia with $PaCO_2$ greater than 45 mm Hg (6.0 kPa) without other etiology (eg, kyphoscoliosis, lung parenchymal disease, myopathy, severe hypothyroidism)
   4. Sleep-disordered breathing or hypoventilation on polysomnography, as indicated by **ONE OR MORE** of the following:
      a. Apnea-hypopnea index of 5 or greater
      b. Increase in $PaCO_2$ during sleep by more than 10 mm Hg (1.3 kPa) above value while awake
      c. Significant oxygen desaturation (eg, < 90%) not explained by obstructive apneas or hypopneas
   5. TSH level does not demonstrate hypothyroidism

F. OSA in child or adolescent and **ONE OR MORE** of the following:
   1. Mild OSA (ie, apnea-hypopnea index from 1 to 5) and **ONE OR MORE** of the following:
      a. achondroplasia
      b. behavioral problems
      c. cardiovascular disease (eg, elevated blood pressure, pulmonary hypertension)
      d. Chiari malformation
      e. craniofacial abnormalities
      f. Down Syndrome
      g. excessive daytime sleepiness
      h. impaired cognition
      i. inattention or hyperactivity
      j. mucopolysaccharidoses
      k. neuromuscular disorders
      l. Prader-Willi syndrome
   2. Moderate or severe OSA (ie, apnea-hypopnea index > 5)

3. Residual apnea-hypopnea index > 5 in pediatric patient after adenotonsillectomy

G. Restrictive disorder of chest wall, as indicated by **ALL** of the following:
   1. Appropriate chest wall disorder as indicated by **ONE OR MORE** of the following:
      a. asphyxiating thoracic dystrophy
      b. kyphoscoliosis
      c. other chest wall disorder accompanied by chronic respiratory failure (eg, ankylosing spondylitis, fibrothorax, post-tuberculous chest wall deformity)
   2. Documentation of respiratory failure as indicated by **ONE OR MORE** of the following:
      a. Arterial O_2 saturation < 88% for 5 consecutive minutes during nocturnal oximetry
      b. Daytime PCO_2 (arterial or capillary) > 45 mm Hg (6.0 kPa)
      c. Forced vital capacity < 50% of predicted
      d. Forced vital capacity < 80% of predicted and symptoms of respiratory failure
      e. Maximum inspiratory pressure 60 cm H_2O (5884 Pa) or lower
      f. Polysomnography demonstrates sleep hypoventilation, as indicated by **ONE OR MORE** of the following:
         01. Adult with sleep-related hypoventilation (ie, arterial, end-tidal, or transcutaneous PCO_2 > 55 mm Hg (7.3 kPa) for 10 minutes or longer, or increase in arterial, end-tidal, or transcutaneous PCO_2 of 10 mm Hg (1.3 kPa) or greater above awake supine value resulting in PCO_2 > 50 mm Hg (6.7 kPa) for 10 minutes or longer).
         02. Child with sleep-related hypoventilation (ie, sleeping arterial, end-tidal, or transcutaneous PCO_2 of greater than 50 mm Hg (6.7 kPa) for greater than 25% of total sleep time, or peak sleep end-tidal PCO_2 of 55 mm Hg (7.3 kPa) or greater).

III. Respiratory status is STABLE, as indicated by **ALL** of the following:
   A. Airway interface is safe with a noninvasive interface with acceptable fit.
   B. Airway pressure requirement appropriate, as indicated by **ONE OR MORE** of the following:
      1. BiPAP expiratory positive airway pressure requirement is ≤ to 10 cm H_2O (981 Pa).
      2. CPAP pressure requirement in child is ≤ 15 cm H_2O (1471 Pa).
      3. Ventilator positive end-expiratory pressure requirement is ≤ 10 cm H_2O (981 Pa).
   C. Settings are stable on chosen device.
   D. No continuous invasive monitoring is required.

IV. A BiPAP or CPAP device must not be clinically appropriate as indicated by **ONE OR MORE** of the following.
   A. Chronic respiratory insufficiency fails to improve with simple BiPAP device.

B. Infant or child does not meet the minimum body weight requirement for CPAP device.
C. Infant or child is not appropriate for simple BiPAP device due to setting or performance requirements, as indicated by **ONE OR MORE** of the following:
    1. Breath rates delivered by device not appropriate for patient.
    2. Compatible ventilator circuits not appropriate for patient (eg, circuit compliance, compressed volume, dead space).
    3. Inspiratory flows delivered by device not appropriate for patient.
    4. Patient does not meet ventilator minimum body weight requirements.
    5. Pressure range (eg, expiratory pressure, inspiratory pressure) not appropriate for patient.
    6. Tidal volume range delivered by device not appropriate for patient.
    7. Ventilator inspiratory trigger delay (ie, airway pressure rise time) not appropriate for patient.
    8. Ventilator inspiratory trigger sensitivity not appropriate for patient.
D. The following setting or functionality is required by the member and is not available with simple BiPAP device:
    1. Alarms required by member are not available on the device.
    2. Daytime ventilation using mouthpiece is required.
    3. Pressure range delivered by device is not appropriate for member.
    4. Member requires volume-assured pressure support or volume control mode (eg, obesity hypoventilation syndrome).
E. Portable ventilator is required for mobility.
F. Ventilated patient requires cough assistance via volume ventilator's breath stacking capability.
G. Ventilation is required 24 hours per day.

V. HMV Continued Use
For HMV continued use beyond the initial 3-month determination, medical necessity must be reestablished every 6 months thereafter. The following is to be provided for continued use:
A. Re-evaluation by the treating medical professional must be completed no earlier than 61 days after initiating therapy.
B. Documentation of the persistence of the disease process for which HMV has been prescribed.
C. Medical records must document that the member is compliant with and benefitting from HMV.
D. At least 30 consecutive days of device data, beginning after 31 days of initiation, demonstrating that the member is utilizing the device an average of 4 hours per 24-hour period. **NOTE:** Failure of the member to consistently use HMV for an average of 4 hours per 24-hour period would demonstrate non-compliant utilization of the device for its intended purpose and expectation of benefit, which would constitute a denial in continued coverage as *not reasonable and necessary*.
E. Additional information as requested.

VI. A provider may not receive payment until necessary supporting documents have been obtained and placed in the provider's files. These documents include the prescription, practitioner order and chart notes, and ventilator settings, which support the determination of medical necessity.

VII. Regardless of its authorized length, a rental period ends when the rented item is no longer medically necessary.

VIII. Exclusions

Any application for a noninvasive home ventilator (E0466) not meeting the criteria above will be denied as being not medically necessary, including but not limited to when its sole purpose is to function as a respiratory assistance device, including settings of CPAP, auto-titrating PAP, BiPAP, average volume assured pressure support (AVAPS) with or without auto EPAP (AE), or intelligent volume assured pressure support (iVAPS).

E. Conditions of Coverage

I. Claims for ventilators being utilized to provide CPAP or BiPAP therapy for conditions described above and are submitted with HCPCS code E0466, will be denied as not being reasonable and necessary. If a HMV is dispensed to a Member for CPAP or BiPAP therapy, the claim must be coded in accordance with CareSource policy, *Positive Airway Pressure Devices for Pulmonary Disorders Continued Rental*. All requirements in D. I.-V. of this policy must be satisfied for HMV to be considered medically necessary.

II. CareSource may verify the use of the equipment through post-payment audit and request additional supporting medical record documentation. If the use of a more appropriate code or piece of equipment is warranted, CareSource may request recoupment.

F. Related Policies/Rules

Positive Airway Pressure Devices for Pulmonary Disorders Continued Rental
Overpayment Recovery

G. Review/Revision History

	DATE	ACTION
Date Issued	06/04/2025	Approved at Committee
Date Revised	06/15/2026	Added IV.E. Removed maximum $Fi0_2$ from III. Approved at Committee.
Date Effective	09/01/2026	
Date Archived		

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