

**03/20/20 UPDATE: For the duration of this Covid-19 PHE (Public Health Emergency), CMS (Medicare) is suspending enforcement of current LCD guidelines for Continuous Glucose Monitors (CGM).**

**Who qualifies for a CGM during the Covid19 PHE (Public Health Emergency)?**

**-All Medicare patients who have a diagnosis related to Diabetes, and whose Healthcare Provider deems it is medically necessary for them to have a CGM will qualify during the PHE.**

*("Effective for claims with dates of service on or after March 1, 2020 and for the duration of this COVID-19 PHE, clinical indications for coverage found in respiratory, infusion pump, and therapeutic continuous glucose monitor NCDs or LCDs will not be enforced. These NCDs and LCDs include: Glucose Monitors (L33822) – Only clinical indications for Therapeutic Continuous Glucose Monitors (CGM) are not enforced."-per Joint DME MAC Article)*

**What documentation is required from a Healthcare Provider to refer a Medicare patient that now qualifies for a CGM under the new Covid19 criteria?**

**-WE WILL NEED A COMPLETED P.O. (PHYSICIAN'S ORDER).**

*("Provide a standard written order (SWO/P.O.) for all items."-per Joint DME MAC Article)*

**-CHART NOTES FROM PATIENT'S MOST RECENT VISIT (IN PERSON OR TELEHEALTH VISIT)**

*("The treating practitioner must document and communicate to the DMEPOS supplier that the treating practitioner has had a face-to-face encounter with the beneficiary within the 6 months preceding the date of the written order/prescription"-per Joint DME MAC Article)*

**-A SIMPLE STATEMENT OF MEDICAL NECESSITY MUST BE INCLUDED WITHIN PATIENT'S CHART NOTES.**

*("Continue documenting the medical necessity for all services. Accordingly, the medical record must be sufficient to support payment for the services billed (that is, the services were actually provided, were provided at the level billed, and were medically necessary); Make documentation available, upon request."-per Joint DME MAC Article)*

**NOTE:** CMS' direction to the MACs, DMEs, was that "Medical Necessity" is at the Healthcare Provider's complete discretion at this time. The following is an example of a simple statement of medical necessity that would suffice:

***"CGM will allow us to remotely monitor patient's glucose levels and will help us make any necessary adjustments to their diabetes regimen; while keeping our patients safe and our staff informed during the PHE."***

**Reference:** Joint DME MAC Article, May 21, 2020: CMS Issues Interim Final Rules with Comment (CMS-1744-IFC & CMS-5531-IFC) – COVID-19 Public Health Emergency – Revised link from [www.cgsmedicare.com](http://www.cgsmedicare.com) For more information regarding CMS official comment go to page: <https://www.cgsmedicare.com/ic/pubs/news/2020/05/cope17333.html>

Regarding patients who meet the regular LCD Medicare guidelines for CGM, please continue to provide the usual documentation. This will allow for continued service after the pandemic is over. For any question regarding this or any of the information provided, please feel free to reach out to me at (903)280-6032.

Sincerely,  
Michael



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**"Patients before profit"**