

Division of Medicaid State of Mississippi Provider Policy Manual	New: Revised: X Current:	Date: Date: 05/01/06 09/01/07
Section: Durable Medical Equipment	Section: 10.42	
Subject: Humidifier	Pages: 1	
	Cross Reference: Reimbursement 10.02	
	Documentation 10.07	
	CPAP 10.27	
	BiPAP 10.14	

Based on medical necessity and satisfaction of the criteria below and all other terms of the Mississippi Medicaid program, this item is available for coverage for:

- Beneficiaries under age 21
- Beneficiaries age 21 and over who are receiving services through the home health program
- All beneficiaries (no age restriction)
- Beneficiaries who are pregnant

The provider must refer to the current fee schedule for the acceptable codes and fee schedule allowances available under Medicaid.

**The following criteria for coverage apply to humidifiers:**

This item may be approved for:

- Rental only
- Purchase only
- Rental for X months, then recertification is required
- Rental up to the purchase amount or purchase when indicated

This item must be ordered by a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant. It is expected that physicians, nurse practitioners, or physician assistants order only items within the scope of their specialty. For example, specialized items such as custom wheelchairs or prosthetics and orthotics should be ordered by specialties such as orthopedics and physicians specializing in rehabilitation. Other items are handled through other specialties.

~~A humidifier is a mechanical device used to increase moisture content of the air in a room.~~

~~Humidifiers, when used in conjunction with oxygen or IPPB treatments, are included in the rental or purchase price of that equipment. This humidifier policy applies to humidifiers not attached to a BiPAP or CPAP. For policy related to humidifiers when used in conjunction with and attached to BiPAP and CPAP equipment, refer to section 10.14 BiLevel Positive Airway Pressure Device (BiPAP) with or without an In-Line Heated Humidifier or section 10.27 Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) with or without an In-Line Heated Humidifier.~~

~~Humidifiers are covered for children under 21 years of age who have a chronic diagnosis(es) indicating a respiratory condition in which ease of breathing could be facilitated by increasing the moisture content of the air. These diagnoses may include, but are not limited to, chronic bronchitis, asthmatic bronchitis,~~

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chronic asthma, bronchopulmonary dysplasia, and chronic airway obstruction. It must be documented that the patient or caregiver is able to use and care for the equipment. Humidifiers will not be covered for acute upper respiratory infections or chronic cough or colds unrelated to another diagnosis.

A humidifier, heated or non-heated, is a device used to increase the moisture content of the air. This policy addresses room humidifiers, vaporizers, high-flow humidifiers, and heat and moisture exchangers.

### **Room Humidifiers and Vaporizers**

A room humidifier is a mechanical device used to increase the moisture content of the air in a room with a cool mist. A steam vaporizer creates moisture in the air by heating the water into a hot mist. A warm mist humidifier is a type of steam vaporizer that cools the moist steam before it is released into the room.

Room humidifiers and vaporizers are covered for beneficiaries who have a chronic diagnosis (es) indicating a respiratory condition in which ease of breathing could be facilitated by increasing the moisture content of the air. The diagnoses may include, but are not limited to, chronic bronchitis, asthmatic bronchitis, chronic asthma, bronchopulmonary dysplasia, and chronic airway obstruction. It must be documented that the patient or caregiver is able to use and care for the equipment. Humidifiers are not covered for acute upper respiratory infections or chronic cough or colds unrelated to another diagnosis.

### **Heat and Moisture Exchanger (HME)**

The heat and moisture exchanger (HME), or artificial nose, is a passive acting humidifier that collects expired heat and moisture and returns it during the following inspiration. The HME is covered when the beneficiary has an existing tracheostomy and documentation is present that the beneficiary requires supplemental, direct humidification to the tracheostomy.

### **High-Flow or Water Reservoir Humidifiers**

High-flow, water reservoir, heated or non-heated humidifiers include, but are not limited to, pass-over, wick, and bubble types. Water reservoir and high-flow humidifiers may be used to provide supplemental heat and humidity for the following:

- Beneficiaries with artificial airways. The use of high-flow, water reservoir humidifiers to increase moisture to the airway of a beneficiary with a tracheostomy is covered when the beneficiary has an existing tracheostomy and documentation is present that the beneficiary requires supplemental, direct humidification to the tracheostomy.
- In conjunction with the BiLevel Positive Airway Pressure Device (BiPAP) or the Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP). A humidifier is covered for CPAP and BiPAP devices if criteria for coverage of the CPAP or BiPAP device is satisfied and documentation is present that the beneficiary requires supplemental humidification.
- In conjunction with ventilator usage. A high-flow, water reservoir humidifier is covered in conjunction with ventilators if criteria for coverage of the ventilator are satisfied and documentation is present that the beneficiary requires supplemental humidification.

Humidifiers, when used in conjunction with oxygen or IPPB treatments, are included in the rental or purchase price of that equipment.