

Medicare coverage criteria for Philips InCourage vest therapy (E0483)

As part of our service to your patients, RespirTech submits all required documentation to your patient’s insurance plans for reimbursement of the Philips InCourage system. We will work with you to obtain the required documentation.

Medicare coverage criteria and documentation requirements

The following table summarizes the covered diagnosis requirements from Medicare.

Medical Record Documentation Requirements	Medicare Covered Diagnoses										
	Bronchiectasis	Cystic Fibrosis	ALS and Other Anterior Horn Cell Diseases	Muscular Dystrophy, Hereditary	Paralysis of the Diaphragm	Quadriplegia	Myotonic Disorders	Multiple Sclerosis	Other Myopathies	Acid Maltase Deficiency	Post-Polio
Signed and dated written order prior to delivery	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Records supporting diagnosis	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Face-to-face encounter within last 6 months	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Tried and Failed Alternative Therapies (See A)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Daily productive cough for at least 6 continuous months OR Exacerbation requiring antibiotic therapy at least 3 times within the last year	X										
CT Scan confirming diagnosis	X										
Continued Use and Medical Need (See B)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

For further information on use of Philips InCourage vest therapy (E0483) and the Philips Respiroics CoughAssist T70 device (E0482), see C on next page.

A. “Tried and failed” or considered alternative therapies

Considerations for “tried and failed” documentation in the patient’s progress notes:

1. Which airway clearance therapies have been “tried and failed” for the patient? (List of examples):

- CPT (manual or percussor) • PEP (acapella®/Flutter®) • CoughAssist • Autogenic drainage • “Huff cough”

2. Include all reasons why the above therapy failed, is contraindicated, or is inappropriate for the patient. (List of examples):

- Artificial airway
- Arthritis/osteoporosis
- Aspiration risk/GERD
- Did not mobilize secretions
- Feeding tube
- Insufficient expiratory force
- Resistance to therapy
- Scoliosis/rod placement
- Unable to form mouth seal
- Spasticity/contractures
- Too fragile for percussion

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Medicare coverage criteria and documentation requirements (continued)

B. Continued use and medical need

Add the InCourage system to the patient's list of current medications so the therapy can be reviewed at each visit to document continued use and medical need to the patient.

C. CoughAssist documentation guidelines

InCourage vest therapy and a CoughAssist device can provide complementary airway clearance therapy. Due to the different mechanisms of action, the InCourage system should be prescribed first to effectively move secretions from the periphery to the central airways where they can be expectorated. With diseases where the patient's ability to cough is impaired, the CoughAssist device would then be an appropriate complement to InCourage vest therapy.

Medicare and any payers following Medicare coverage criteria will not reimburse for both InCourage vest therapy and a CoughAssist device. RespirTech will coordinate the appeals process in cases where Medicare and other payers following Medicare criteria deny coverage for utilization of both therapies.

Private payer coverage

Private payers often follow Medicare's coverage policies and may also require prior authorization as a condition of coverage. Some may require specific documentation or may not cover all of the diagnoses in Medicare's coverage guidelines. Most will also require alternative, standard airway clearance therapies have been tried and failed prior to approving InCourage vest therapy for coverage.

Medicaid coverage

State and local government agencies operate Medicaid and other programs for low-income and disabled individuals and their families. While these programs tend to track Medicare's policies on coverage, they may not utilize the same coverage guidelines. Thus, coverage and documentation requirements for InCourage vest therapy by government-run programs in the state and local level can vary considerably and will require specific benefit determination.

What is considered medical documentation

It is important to note all coverage criteria outlined on this form must be contained in the patient's medical record in order to maintain compliance with Medicare and other insurance programs. A prescription is not considered a 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.



Questions? We're here to help

Contact RespirTech Customer Support
Toll free: 800.793.1261

This educational information offers general coverage, coding and payment information for procedures associated with use of high frequency chest wall oscillation (HFCWO). This is not legal guidance, nor is it advice about how to code, complete, or submit any particular claim for payment. It is always the provider's responsibility to determine coverage and submit appropriate codes and charges for services rendered. This is based on the medical necessity of the services and supplies provided, the requirements of insurance carriers and any other third-party payers, and any local, state or federal laws that apply to the products and services rendered. Given the rapid and constant change in public and private reimbursement, we cannot guarantee the accuracy or timeliness of this information.