

Origination Date: 6/05	Revision Date(s): 5/06, 5/07, 5/08, 11/09, 2/11
Developed By: Medical Criteria Committee	



Approved: Neal Mills MD, MBA **Date:** 3/15/2011

Description:

Pulmonary rehabilitation is a restorative and preventative process for patients who are diagnosed with a chronic pulmonary disease. Pulmonary rehabilitation programs utilize a multidisciplinary approach in the areas of exercise training, psychosocial support, education, and follow-up. The purpose of the program is to help individuals improve their quality of life and restore them to their highest possible functional capacity.

Criteria:

Outpatient pulmonary rehabilitation will be covered to plan limitations when **ALL** of the following criteria are met:

1. The patient is referred by a board-certified pulmonologist or by a primary care physician who is actively involved in the patient's care; **and**
2. The patient has a diagnosis of chronic pulmonary disease or other condition that affects pulmonary function, such as one of the following:
 - a. Emphysema
 - b. Asthma
 - c. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
 - d. Cystic Fibrosis
 - e. Chronic Bronchitis
 - f. Asbestosis
 - g. Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency
 - h. Pneumoconiosis
 - i. Radiation Pneumonitis
 - j. Pulmonary Fibrosis
 - k. Fibrosing Alveolitis
 - l. Status Post Lung Resection
 - m. Ankylosing spondylitis
 - n. Muscular dystrophy
 - o. Guillain-Barre' syndrome
 - p. Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)
 - q. Sarcoidosis
 - r. Bronchopulmonary dysplasia
 - s. Paralysis of the diaphragm
- and**
3. The patient has a reduction of exercise tolerance in the past thirty days which restricts the ability to perform activities of daily living; **and**
4. The patient does not have a recent history of smoking or has quit smoking for at least 3 months; **and**
5. The patient has a moderate to moderately severe functional pulmonary impairment as evidenced by FEV1 at values 25-60% of that predicted (values below 25% indicate severe disease process; levels over 60% indicate normalization); **and**
6. There are no other medical/psychological limitations such as uncontrolled congestive heart failure, acute MI within the last 6 months, uncontrolled arrhythmias, substance abuse, metastatic cancer, disabling stroke, severe pulmonary hypertension, active pulmonary infection, or dementia; **or**
7. The patient is a lung transplant candidate or recipient **or**
8. The patient is planning to undergo a reduction pneumoplasty

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Limitations:

- A typical course of pulmonary rehabilitation is outpatient and extends for up to 6-8 weeks.
- Coverage of pulmonary rehabilitation may be subject to applicable plan limitations for short-term rehabilitation therapies.

Information to be Submitted with Pre-Authorization Request:

1. The last six months of medical records from the ordering physician indicating diagnosis and current medical management.
2. Results of recent pulmonary function tests

Applicable CPT/HCPC:

Note: list may not be all inclusive

G0237	Therapeutic procedures to increase strength or endurance of respiratory muscles, face-to-face, one-on-one, each 15 minutes (includes monitoring)
G0238	Therapeutic procedures to increase respiratory function, other an described by G0237, one-on-one, face-to-face, per 15 minutes (includes monitoring)
G0239	Therapeutic procedures to improve respiratory function or increase strength or endurance of respiratory muscles, 2 or more individuals (includes monitoring)
S9473	Pulmonary rehabilitation program, non-physician provider, per diem

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