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## Heating Pad Systems

Policy Number: HS-133

Original Effective Date: 10/1/2009

Revised Date(s): 10/29/2010; 9/15/2011

### DISCLAIMER

The Clinical Coverage Guideline is intended to supplement certain standard WellCare benefit plans. The terms of a member's particular Benefit Plan, Evidence of Coverage, Certificate of Coverage, etc., may differ significantly from this Coverage Position. For example, a member's benefit plan may contain specific exclusions related to the topic addressed in this Clinical Coverage Guideline. When a conflict exists between the two documents, the Member's Benefit Plan always supersedes the information contained in the Clinical Coverage Guideline. Additionally, Clinical Coverage Guidelines relate exclusively to the administration of health benefit plans and are NOT recommendations for treatment, nor should they be used as treatment guidelines. The application of the Clinical Coverage Guideline is subject to the benefit determinations set forth by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) National and Local Coverage Determinations and state-specific Medicaid mandates, if any.

### APPLICATION STATEMENT

The application of the Clinical Coverage Guideline is subject to the benefit determinations set forth by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) National and Local Coverage Determinations and state-specific Medicaid mandates, if any.

## BACKGROUND

A standard electric heating pad (E0210) is a flexible device containing electric resistive elements producing heat. It must have a fabric cover to prevent burns. The maximum pad contact surface temperature must not exceed 105.8°F. It must have at least one temperature setting that is in the range of 95°F – 100.4°F. It must have a timing device for automatic shut-off. It may include heat-retaining material (e.g., gel, fluid, vegetable matter). If so, the heat retaining materials must be contained in an enclosed pouch or bag in or around the heating elements. A heating pad that includes a cover or other element that utilizes water vapor (humidity) drawn from the air to create moisture when heated is billed using this code.

A moist electric heating pad (E0215) is a flexible device containing electric resistive elements producing heat. It must have a fabric cover to prevent burns. The maximum pad contact surface temperature must not exceed 105.8°F. It must have at least one temperature setting that is in the range of 95°F – 100.4°F. It must have a timing device for automatic shut-off. It must have a component that absorbs and retains liquid water. The water containing element must be protected from contact with the electrical components and the water must be in direct contact with the skin on application. A cover or other element that utilizes water vapor (humidity) drawn from the air to create moisture when heated does not meet the definition of this code. Water must be added to the device to meet the description of this code.

A water circulating heat pad with pump (E0217) is a flexible pad containing a series of channels through which water is circulated by means of an electrical pumping mechanism. The water is heated in an external reservoir. The pump, pad, and all accessories needed for the pad to be functional are included in the code. The maximum pad contact surface temperature must not exceed 105.8°F. It must have at least one temperature setting that is in the range of 95°F – 100.4°F. It must have a timing device for automatic shut-off.

Code E0249 is a durable replacement pad used with water circulating heat pump system (E0217). It is made of rubber, heavy plastic or durable fabric. It can be cleaned and is designed for long term use. A replacement pad made of other material that is designed for shorter term use must be billed using code A9999 (Miscellaneous DME supply or accessory, not otherwise specified).

Short-wave diathermy uses radio waves to heat tissue conversively; tissue is heated by the actions of a rapidly alternating electrical field. Because of the inherent risks involved in application of this deep heating modality, short wave diathermy machines are inappropriate for unsupervised use at home.

Microwave diathermy involves the use of microwaves for heating tissues, and offers an advantage over short-wave diathermy in treating small areas in that they can be relatively easily focused. However, microwaves generally do not penetrate tissue as deeply as short waves.

Microwave diathermy has been used primarily to heat relatively superficial muscles and joints. Microwave diathermy is used relatively rarely, and indications for which microwaves would be appropriate often are treated with superficial heat, short-wave diathermy, or ultrasound. Because of the importance of appropriate application technique and the inherent risks of this deep heating modality, microwave diathermy machines are inappropriate for unsupervised home use.

## POSITION STATEMENT

A standard heating pad (E0210) **is considered medically necessary in the following circumstances:**

- Relief of certain types of pain (excluding peripheral neuropathy); **OR,**
- To decrease joint and soft tissue stiffness; **OR,**

- Relax muscles; **OR**,
- Reduce inflammation

Moist electric heating pad (E0215) or water circulating heat pad (E0217) **are considered NOT medically necessary** as they have not been proven to produce outcomes superior to standard heating pads (E0210)\*.

Heat lamps (E0200, E0205) **are considered NOT medically necessary** because the safety and efficacy of the devices have not been established for home use.

Infrared heating pad systems (E0221) **are considered NOT medically necessary for all indications.**

The following heating devices are considered institutional equipment and are NOT appropriate for home use:

- Ultrasound devices; **OR**,
- Short wave diathermy devices; **OR**,
- Microwave diathermy devices

## CODING

**CPT Codes** - No applicable codes

**ICD-9-CM Procedure Codes** - No applicable codes

**Covered HCPCS Codes**

**E0210** Electrical heat pad, standard

**Non-Covered HCPCS Codes**

**E0200** Heat lamp, without stand (table model), includes bulb or infrared element.

**E0205** Heat lamp, with stand, includes bulb, or infrared element

**E0215** Electric heat pad, moist

**E0217** Water circulating heat pad with pump

**E0221** Infrared heating pad system

**Covered ICD-9-CM- Diagnosis Codes**

The diagnosis must meet medical necessity as stated in the criteria above. Diagnosis are multiple and varied.

\*Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) 2011 American Medical Association: Chicago, IL.

## REFERENCES

**Peer Reviewed**

N/A

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**Government Agencies, Professional and Medical Organizations**

1. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. (2008, September). Local coverage determination for heating pads and heat lamps (DL28480). Retrieved from <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/mcd/search.asp>
2. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. (2007, July). Local coverage determination for infrared heating pad systems (L12873). Retrieved from <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/mcd/search.asp>

**HISTORY AND REVISIONS**

Date	Action
12/1/2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New template design approved by MPC.</li></ul>
9/15/2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approved by MPC. No changes.</li></ul>