

### Suction Pumps

Suction pumps are electrical aspirator devices designed for upper respiratory oral pharyngeal and tracheal suction or for gastric suction.

#### Upper Airway Use:

A respiratory suction pump is a device designed to remove respiratory secretions that cannot be managed by the beneficiary due to compromised cough mechanism or tracheostomy.

#### Coverage and Payment Policy for Respiratory conditions:

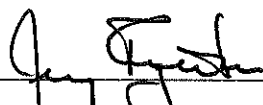
1. When a beneficiary has difficulty raising and clearing secretions secondary to:
  - a. Cancer or surgery of the throat or mouth
  - b. Dysfunction of the swallowing muscles
  - c. Unconscious or obtunded state
  - d. Tracheostomy
2. Suction catheters and sterile water or saline are covered when medically necessary. Sterile water/saline is covered only for beneficiaries who have a tracheostomy. Tracheal suction catheters are covered only when patient has a Tracheostomy.
3. Coverage is for a maximum of three (3) catheters per day for tracheal suction and three (3) catheters per week for non-tracheal suction.

#### Coverage and Payment Policy for Gastrointestinal Suction Pumps:

1. Will be approved only for those patients with a gastrointestinal tube in place; and
2. Documentation from treating clinician of an obstructive gastrointestinal diagnosis.

Accessories and supplies are included in the rental fee.

When billing for supplies greater than what is allowed, supporting documentation must accompany the prior authorization.

Approved by:  Associate Medical Director  
Jerry Fingerhut, MD

Date: 2 March, 2016

Reviewed: \_\_\_\_\_

Revised: \_\_\_\_\_