

## Home Pulse Oximetry Device

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<b>Approved By:</b>	
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<b>Application:</b>	
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### Disclaimer

Highmark Health Options medical policy is intended to serve only as a general reference resource regarding coverage for the services described. This policy does not constitute medical advice and is not intended to govern or otherwise influence medical decisions.

### COVERAGE

The pulse oximeter is a device used to measure arterial (blood) oxygen saturation. A small clamp is placed on a patient's finger, toe or earlobe. The oximeter interprets the information gathered and determines the saturation of oxygen in the blood. The data obtained from the device is then interpreted by a health care professional who uses the data to determine appropriate treatment of the patient.

### POLICY POSITION

Intermittent pulse oximeter monitoring (less than 24 hours) for home use may be considered medically necessary durable medical equipment (DME), from a DME supplier, for ANY ONE of the following indications:

- To evaluate initial and ongoing medical necessity of an oxygen therapeutic regimen; or
- To evaluate appropriate home oxygen liter flow for ambulation, exercise, or sleep in a patient with respiratory disease; or
- To evaluate an acute change in condition requiring an adjustment to the liter flow of home oxygen; or
- Intermittently as a spot check (digital pulse oximeter).

Code	Description
E0445	Oximeter Device For Measuring Blood Oxygen Levels Noninvasively.

Continuous pulse oximeter monitoring for home use may be considered medically necessary DME from a DME supplier, for ANY ONE of the following indications

- To monitor individuals on home mechanical ventilation when the ventilator does not have a built in pulse oximeter; or

- To monitor home care patients with tracheostomies; or
- To monitor premature or infants less than one (1) year of age with bronchopulmonary dysplasia; or
- The patient would otherwise require hospitalization solely for the purpose of continuous monitoring; and
- A trained caregiver is available to respond to changes in the oxygen saturation.

Code	Description
E0445	Oximeter Device For Measuring Blood Oxygen Levels Noninvasively.

A pulse oximeter for home use (intermittent or continuous) is considered not medically necessary when used for indications other than those listed above including, but not limited to, asthma management or when used alone as a screening/testing technique for suspected obstructive sleep apnea (OSA).

Code	Description
E0445	Oximeter Device For Measuring Blood Oxygen Levels Noninvasively.

When the pulse oximeter is used to determine oxygen saturation levels in a physician's office or as part of any other medical care and the charges are itemized, combine the charges and pay only the medical care. Payment for the medical care performed on the same date of service includes the allowance.

Code	Description
E0445	Oximeter Device For Measuring Blood Oxygen Levels Noninvasively.
94760	Noninvasive Ear Or Pulse Oximetry For Oxygen Saturation; Single Determination.
94761	Noninvasive Ear Or Pulse Oximetry For Oxygen Saturation; Multiple Determination (E.G., During Exercise).

The replacement of two (2) reusable probes every 12 months or five (5) disposable oximeter probes every one (1) month may be considered medically necessary when the probe is inoperable due to:

- Faulty or damaged wiring, sensors, pads, connectors, straps; or
- Damaged or missing springs; or
- Broken or missing shells; or
- Inaccurate data evidenced by environmental factors (e.g., movement or body temperature).

Quantity level limits or quantities of supplies that exceed the frequency guidelines listed in the policy will be denied as not medically necessary.

**Note:** Modifier RA or RB must be indicated when the replacement is a disposable oximeter probe.

Code	Description
A4606	Oxygen Probe For Use With Oximeter Device, Replacement.

### Diagnosis Codes

B34.2	B97.21		B97.29	E84.0	E84.9	E84.11	E84.19
E84.8	I73.9		J12.81	J12.82	J12.89	J20.8	J22
J40	J43.0		J43.1	J43.2	J43.8	J43.9	J44.9
J47.1	J47.9		J80	J84.10	J84.170	J84.178	J84.89
J95.1	J95.2		J95.3	J95.821	J95.822	J96.00	J96.01
J96.02	J96.10		J96.11	J96.12	J96.20	J96.21	J96.22
J96.90	J96.91		J96.92	J98.4	J98.6	J98.8	P22.0
P22.1	P27.1		P27.8	P27.9	P28.3	Q23.4	R06.81
R09.02	U07.1		Z99.11	Z99.81			

### Place of Service: Outpatient

The use of a Home Pulse Oximetry Device is typically an outpatient procedure which is only eligible for coverage as an inpatient procedure in special circumstances, including, but not limited to, the presence of a comorbid condition that would require monitoring in a more controlled environment such as the inpatient setting.

## References

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4. Narayen IC, Kaptein AA, Hogewoning JA, Blom NA, Te Pas AB. Maternal acceptability of pulse oximetry screening at home after home birth or very early discharge. *Eur J Pediatr*. 2017; 176(5):669-672.
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6. Bueker J, Theunis J, DeBoever P, Vaes An, Koopman M. Janssen E, et.al. Wearable Finger Pulse Oximetry for Continuous Oxygen Saturation Measurements During Daily Home Routines of Patients With Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Over One week: Observation Study. *JMIR Mhealth Uhealth*. 2019;7(6):e12866.
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10. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Pulse Oximeters and Oxygen Concentrators: What to Know about At-Home Oxygen Therapy. <https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/pulse-oximeters-and-oxygen-concentrators-what-know-about-home-oxygen-therapy>. Updated February 19, 2021. Accessed 3/11/2021.
11. Shah S, Majmudar K, Stein A, et al. Novel use of home pulse oximetry monitoring in COVID-19 patients discharged from the emergency department identifies need for hospitalization. *ACAD EMERG MED*. 2020; 27(8): 681-692.

## POLICY UPDATE HISTORY

9/20/2021	Clinical Policy Review Committee – Medicaid Business Unit.
3/25/2021	Clinical Policy Management Committee – Highmark DE Commercial.