

*For Distribution to Brokers/Wholesalers/Administrators/DBEs Only*

April 2, 2008

## Certain DME Supplies Are Not Covered

**MARKET: All**

Most CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield and CareFirst BlueChoice, Inc. health plans do not provide benefits for items used for comfort, convenience or environmental control. However, a recent audit identified claims for over-the-counter and convenience durable medical equipment (DME) and medical supply items that were being paid in error. As a result, some DME items will no longer be available for reimbursement. The lists below offer examples of some of the DME items that are not covered and will no longer be reimbursed:

### **Effective April 1, 2008:**

- Bathroom equipment/aids
- Cold pads/cold pressure therapy/heating pads
- Bed related accessories/support devices
- Non-prescription devices with antiseptic or decongestant for the nose and throat

### **Effective April 21, 2008:**

- Commode chair
- Sphygmomanometer/stethoscope
- Sitz bath

In addition to the lists above, payment errors may have affected the coverage of other over-the-counter items or supplies that do not require a prescription and/or supplies associated or used with non-covered items or services.

**Please note that group benefits are not changing** – claims for these DME items were covered in error and have never been eligible for reimbursement. Please note that most plans **do** cover diabetic supplies, such as test strips and lancets, so members will continue to be reimbursed for these items.

Members will not be asked to return any money to CareFirst for DME-related claims that were incorrectly covered. An article, which offers details on this issue to all members, will be included in the next issue of Vitality.

If you have any questions, please contact your Broker Sales Representative.



Shekar Subramaniam  
Associate Vice President, Broker Sales