

TO: All Providers
FROM: CareFirst of Maryland Inc.
DATE: March 13, 2002
SUBJECT: Non-Contact Normothermic Wound Therapy (NNWT)

Scope

Based on a recent National Coverage Decision (NCD) §60-25 of the Coverage Issues Manual on Non-Contact Normothermic Wound Therapy (NNWT) has been added. The NCD decision is to not cover NNWT.

Background

NNWT is a device reported to promote wound healing by warming a wound to a predetermined temperature. The device consists of a noncontact wound cover into which a flexible, battery powered, infrared heating card is inserted. There is insufficient scientific or clinical evidence to consider this device as reasonable and necessary within the meaning of §1862(a)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act and will not be covered by Medicare.

Implementation

New codes were issued for NNWT effective 1/1/2002. The codes are as follows:

- E0231** - Non-contact wound warming device (temperature control unit, AC adapter, and power cord) for use with warming card and wound cover.
- E0232** - Warming card for use with non-contact wound warming device and non-contact warming wound cover.
- A6000** - Non-contact wound warming cover for use with the non-contact warming device and warming card.

The intermediary must deny claims for these codes for dates of service on or after July 1, 2002 as not medically necessary. For dates of service prior to July 1, 2002, your intermediary will use individual consideration.

(Source (s): Program Memorandum AB-02-025; Change Request 2027)

THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE SHARED WITH ALL HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS AND MANAGERIAL MEMBERS OF THE PROVIDER/SUPPLIER STAFF. ALL BULLETINS ISSUED AFTER OCTOBER 1, 1999 ARE AVAILABLE AT NO COST FROM OUR WEBSITE AT www.marylandmedicare.com.

The *effective date/ implementation date* for this instruction is July 1, 2002.

Questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to Dotty Sewell at (410) 561-4108 or your Provider Relations representative at (866) 488-0545.