

## Medical Policy



### **Drug Delivery Systems for Metered Dose Inhaler (MDI) – aka: Aerochamber**

#### **Description**

Drug delivery systems are either reservoirs or bags used with a metered-dose inhaler that enables a patient to breathe or inhale a fixed dose of his/her medication.

#### **Policy**

A drug delivery system for metered dose inhaler (MDI) is considered **reasonable and necessary** to enable a member to breathe or inhale a fixed dose of medication.

A drug delivery system for metered dose inhaler (MDI) is considered **not considered reasonable and necessary** for all other indications.

#### **Policy Guidelines**

Coverage Criteria:

1. Must be ordered by the member's treating practitioner.

Limitations:

1. One reservoir bag allowed per month.
2. One holding chamber is allowed per year.

#### **HCPCS Level II Codes and Description**

A4627	Spacer bag or reservoir, with or without masks, for use with metered dose inhaler
S8100	Holding chamber or spacer for use with an inhaler or nebulizer; without mask
S8101	Holding chamber or spacer for use with an inhaler or nebulizer; with mask

#### **Documentation Requirement**

1. Provider must submit supporting documentation with claim that shows documentation of metered dose inhaler (MDI) medication.

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#### **Important Note:**

Northwood's Medical Policies are developed to assist Northwood in administering plan benefits and determining whether a particular DMEPOS product or service is reasonable and necessary. Equipment that is used primarily and customarily for a non-medical purpose is not considered durable medical equipment.

Coverage determinations are made on a case-by-case basis and are subject to all of the terms, conditions, limitations, and exclusions of the member's contract including medical necessity requirements.

The conclusion that a DMEPOS product or service is reasonable and necessary does not constitute coverage. The member's contract defines which DMEPOS product or service is covered, excluded or limited. The policies provide for clearly written, reasonable and current criteria that have been approved by Northwood's Medical Director.

The clinical criteria and medical policies provide guidelines for determining the medical necessity for specific DMEPOS products or services. In all cases, final benefit determinations are based on the applicable contract language. To the extent there are any conflicts between medical policy guidelines and applicable contract language, the contract language prevails. Medical policy is not intended to override the policy that defines the member's benefits, nor is it intended to dictate to providers how to direct care. Northwood Medical policies shall not be interpreted to limit the benefits afforded to Medicare or Medicaid members by law and regulation and Northwood will use the applicable state requirements to determine required quantity limit guidelines.

Northwood's policies do not constitute medical advice. Northwood does not provide or recommend treatment to members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

Northwood follows all CMS National Coverage Determinations (NCD) and Local Coverage Determinations (LCD), as applicable.

#### **References**

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13. Cates CJ, Crilly JA, Rowe BH. Holding chambers (spacers) versus nebulisers for beta-agonist treatment of acute asthma. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2006;(2):CD000052.
14. Rodriguez C, Sossa M, Lozano JM. Commercial versus home-made spacers in delivering bronchodilator therapy for acute therapy in children. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2008;(2):CD005536.

#### **Change/Authorization History**

<b>Revision Number</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description of Change</b>	<b>Prepared/Reviewed by</b>	<b>Approved by</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>	<b>Effective Date:</b>
A	Nov.2006	Initial Release	Rosanne Brugnoni	Ken Fasse	n/a	
01		Annual Review-no changes	Susan Glomb	Ken Fasse	Dec. 2008	
02	12-22-09	Annual Review- No changes	Susan Glomb	Ken Fasse	Dec.2009	
03	12-15-10	Annual review/ no changes	Susan Glomb	Ken Fasse	Dec.2010	
05	07-20-11	Added Important Note to all Medical Policies	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri		
06	11-09-11	Annual Review. Added References to Policy	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri	Nov. 2011	
07	11-28-12	Annual review – no changes.	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri	Nov. 2012	
08	12-30-13	Annual review. No changes	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri		
09	11-25-14	Annual Review. No changes	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri		
10	12-14-15	Annual Review. No changes	Susan Glomb	Dr. B. Almasri	12-14-15	
11	11-22-16	Annual Review. No Changes.	Lisa Wojno	Dr. B. Almasri	11-22-16	
12	11-14-17	Annual review. No changes.	Carol Dimech	Dr. C. Lerchin	11-14-17	

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13	11-08-18	Annual Review. No Changes.	Lisa Wojno	Dr. C. Lerchin	11-08-18	
14	11-08-19	Annual Review. No Changes.	Lisa Wojno	Dr. C. Lerchin	November 2019	November 2019
15	11-09-20	Annual Review. No Changes.	Carol Dimech	Dr. C. Lerchin	November 9, 2020	November 9, 2020
16	11-09-21	Annual review. Added NCD, LCD verbiage to “Important Note” (as applicable). Changed “prescribing physician” to state “prescribing practitioner”.	Carol Dimech/Susan Glomb	Dr. C. Lerchin	November 9, 2021	
17	11-15-22	Annual review. Added reference.	Carol Dimech	Dr. C. Lerchin	11-15-22	11-15-22
18	11-9-23	Annual review. No changes.	Carol Dimech	Dr. C. Lerchin	11-9-23	11-9-23
19	11-11-24	Annual review. No changes.	Susan Glomb	Dr. C. Lerchin	11-11-24	11-11-24