

BULLETIN

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota
and Blue Plus

June 20, 2008

CHF/COPD telemonitoring services for CareBlue and SecureBlue

Selected Blue Plus members with congestive heart failure (CHF) and/or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) can receive telemonitoring services rendered by a participating homecare agency through their disease management program.

Homecare agencies, physicians and care coordinators may refer a member with CHF and/or COPD to the telemonitoring program. Members with established homecare services preferably will remain with the same homecare agency for telemonitoring services to ensure continuity of care. Homecare agencies will be responsible for coordinating all of the telemonitoring program with the member and physician. Coordination would include: installation/de-installation, troubleshooting equipment, training, setting parameters and oversight. We expect face-to-face skilled nurse visits to decrease due to telemonitoring.

Eligibility

This service is currently available only to CareBlue (SNBC) and SecureBlue (MSHO) members with diagnosis of CHF and/or COPD who have a history of hospitalization or emergency room visits in the preceding twelve months. The alpha prefix for these members is XZS.

Prior authorization

These services must be prior authorized by a case manager in the integrated health management government programs department. The department's phone number is **1-800-711-9868**.

Coding and reimbursement

Participating homecare agencies may bill Blue Plus for both monthly rental of telemonitoring equipment and collection and interpretation of telemonitoring data. The following codes should be utilized on the institutional claim form for these services:

Telemonitor rental

Rental should be billed to Blue Plus monthly by either the homecare agency or the contracted vendor supplying the monitor. However, only one organization may bill.

Revenue code	Description	CPT®/HCPCS code*	Description	Reimbursement
0291	Durable medical equipment, rental	S9109	Congestive heart failure telemonitoring, equipment rental, including telescale, computer system and software, telephone connections, and maintenance per month	\$88 per month (excludes any applicable MinnesotaCare tax)

*Please route this information to other interested staff.

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Data Collection and Interpretation

Services should be billed utilizing one unit per month.

Revenue code	Description	CPT/HCPCS code	Description	Reimbursement
0780	Telemedicine - general classification	99091	Collection and interpretation of physiologic data (e.g., ECG, blood pressure, glucose monitoring) digitally stored and/or transmitted by the patient and/or caregiver to the physician or other qualified health professional, requiring a minimum of 30 minutes of time.	\$71.48 per month (excludes any applicable MinnesotaCare tax)

Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact provider service at **(651) 662-5200** or toll free at **1-800-262-0820**.

CPT® (Current Procedural Terminology) is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association.

HCPCS* stands for Health Care Procedure Coding System

*Please route this information to other interested staff.