

MEDICARE COVERAGE GUIDELINES

OXYGEN THERAPY



Oxygen Coverage Categories:

Doctor must order testing for Oxygen. It can be an oximetry reading in the office or overnight testing.

1. **Group 1 Coverage** - Oxygen saturation 88% or less at rest.
 - a. If desaturation occurs with exercise, 3 step test must be done by the Doctor, PA or ARNP all on same day.
 - b. Must be re-evaluated annually.
2. **Group 2 Coverage** - Oxygen saturation of 89% and,
 - a. One of the following conditions:
 - i. Dependent Edema suggesting congestive heart failure
 - ii. Pulmonary Hypertension or Co Pulmonale
 - iii. Erthrocythemia with Hematocrit Greater then 56%
 - b. Initial Coverage limited to 3 months then Doctor must re-evaluate.
3. **Group 3 Coverage** - Absence of hypoxemia defined in Groups I and II and Medical condition with distinct physiologic, cognitive, and/or functional symptoms documented in high-quality, peer-reviewed literature to be improved by oxygen therapy.
 - a. Initial coverage limited to 3 months. (61st day to 90th day for Group 2 & 3.)

Oxygen Testing Requirements:

3-step testing - At rest and awake - often referred to as "spot" oximetry during exercise - requires a series of 3 tests done during a single testing sessions:

- At rest, off oxygen - showing a non-qualifying result
- Exercising, off oxygen - showing a qualifying result
- Exercising, with oxygen - test results obtained while exercising with oxygen therapy showed improvement

Overnight sleep oximetry - During sleep - it may be done in the hospital or at home. Refer to the Medicare LCD for detailed information about home overnight sleep oximetry.

Titration polysomnogram - Must be used for beneficiaries with concurrent obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) in order to establish that the OSA be appropriately and sufficiently treated before oxygen saturation results obtained during sleep testing are considered qualifying.

Group II and Group III

1. A re-evaluation of a repeat qualifying blood gas test by the treating practitioner between the 61st and 90th days after initiation of therapy; and,
2. A new Standard Written Order (SWO) by the treating practitioner.



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