

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



CENTERS for MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

Richard Weston
BlueSky Medical Group Inc.
1485 Poinsettia Ave. #118
Vista, CA 92081

Re: Request #05.09

Request to establish a code for portable powered suction pump, trade name: Versatile Wound Vacuum System.

Dear Mr. Weston:

On behalf of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), I would like to thank you for your application to modify the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Level II code set. The HCPCS Level II code set is available for use by all payers, and maintained by CMS taking into consideration the national program operating needs of all payers, including Medicare, Medicaid, and Private Insurers.

CMS has reviewed this product category and published a preliminary decision that existing codes **E1399 "DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, MISCELLANEOUS"**, and **E2402 "NEGATIVE PRESSURE WOUND THERAPY ELECTRICAL PUMP, STATIONARY OR PORTABLE"**, are available for assignment by insurers.

We appreciate your participation in CMS' HCPCS Public Meeting, and your comments in reaction to our published preliminary decision. Specifically, you asked for rapid assignment of a new code; a separate code based on simpler technology, and accessory kit coding that does not include foam.

CMS re-reviewed your application following the HCPCS Public Meeting and determined that existing code **E2402 "NEGATIVE PRESSURE WOUND THERAPY ELECTRICAL PUMP, STATIONARY OR PORTABLE"** adequately describes the product that is the subject of your request, and is available for use by all payers. The following modifications have been made to the HCPCS Level II standard, national code set:

- 1) Discontinue A6551 **"CANISTER FOR NEGATIVE PRESSURE WOUND THERAPY ELECTRICAL PUMP, STATIONARY OR PORTABLE, EACH"**.
- 2) Revise code A6550 to read **"WOUND CARE SET, FOR NEGATIVE PRESSURE WOUND THERAPY ELECTRICAL PUMP, INCLUDES ALL SUPPLIES AND ACCESSORIES"**.

The entire 2006 HCPCS Annual Update is available and can be downloaded free of charge at: www.cms.hhs.gov/medicare/hcpcs. The code set is searchable using the edit function and key words or code numbers.

The HCPCS Level II codes describe categories of like items. The code set is not intended to be an exhaustive listing of all products on the market. As a general rule, the CMS does not classify individual items into code categories. Individual insurance contractors have the necessary flexibility to classify specific products into HCPCS Level II code categories and establish their own coding instructions in accordance with their policies and program operating needs. Questions regarding classification of products into HCPCS Level II code categories should be submitted to the contractor in whose jurisdiction a claim would be filed. For private sector health insurance systems, please contact the individual private insurance contractor. For Medicaid systems, please contact the Medicaid Agency in the state in which the claim is being filed.

Under contract to the CMS, the Statistical Analysis Durable Medical Equipment Regional Carrier (SADMERC) provides coding verifications for the purpose of billing Medicare. The SADMERC has advised us that for Medicare, code E2402 should be used to identify the Versatile 1 Wound Vacuum System. Existing code A7000 "CANISTER, DISPOSABLE, USED WITH SUCTION PUMP, EACH", should be used to identify the canister. And revised code A6550 should be used to identify the wound care set, including all supplies and accessories. For confirmation of appropriate code assignment for Medicare billing, you may contact the SADMERC toll free at 877-735-1326. For your convenience, the SADMERC has begun compiling a product classification matrix that lists individual products by brand name under code categories. This matrix is available at www.palmettogba.com. If you do not find your product listed on the SADMERC matrix, you may request a coding verification for your product by contacting the SADMERC at the toll free telephone number listed above.

Sincerely,



Cynthia Hake
Director
CMS HCPCS Workgroup