GUIDELINES
This policy does not certify benefits or authorization of benefits, which is designated by each individual policyholder contract. Paramount applies coding edits to all medical claims through coding logic software to evaluate the accuracy and adherence to accepted national standards. This guideline is solely for explaining correct procedure reporting and does not imply coverage and reimbursement.

DESCRIPTION
Oximeters are noninvasive monitors that measure the oxygen saturation of blood. They are often also referred to as “pulse oximeters” because they also measure and record an individual’s heart rate. A sensor is placed on a finger, toe or ear and uses light to estimate the oxygen saturation in the arterial blood; the sensor is connected by a wire to a monitor, which then displays both the oxygen saturation (O2 sat) and the heart rate.

Home oximetry may be used to monitor the O2 sat in the blood of individuals with known or suspected heart disease or many other circulatory or lung disorders. It may be considered medically necessary to assist the physician in determining the correct flow of supplemental oxygen, monitor changes in O2 sat during exercise and assist with management of home ventilators. The units used in the home are usually small, portable hand-held devices, though they can be larger, stationary machines.

POLICY
A pulse oximeter (E0445) does not require prior authorization. Limits may apply.

A non-disposable oximeter probe (A4606) will be denied as a component of the oximeter during the rental period, but four non-disposable oximeter probes (A4606) per year may be supplied once the member owns the equipment. Disposable probes are non-covered.

HMO, PPO, Individual Marketplace, Elite, Advantage
A pulse oximeter is a covered medical equipment item eligible for reimbursement when used in a personal residence as an alternative to hospitalization to manage the care of oxygen dependent pediatric recipients. Home pulse oximetry is covered when used to monitor oxygen saturation in order to determine appropriate supplemental oxygen levels. Home pulse oximetry is not covered for the purpose of qualifying or requalifying a patient for home oxygen.

1. All oximeters must have printing capabilities that document an adequate number of sampling hours, per cent of oxygen saturation and an aggregate of the results.
2. The oximeter must be preset, self-sealed and not adjustable by the consumer or anyone in the home.
3. All oximeter printouts must be reliable, legible and maintained in the consumer's medical record.
4. The consumer and/or the consumer's caregiver must be trained in the proper use of the pulse oximeter, the proper recording of measurements, and in whatever action is necessary to reverse a low oxygen saturation level. Documentation of this training must be kept in the provider's files.

The following methods of home pulse oximetry services are covered:

1. “Diagnostic monitoring,” which is defined as monitoring for periods of up to twenty-four hours in length. Coverage is limited to a maximum of four monitoring periods per month.
2. “Continuous monitoring,” which is defined as twenty-four-hour monitoring, seven days a week.

The following criteria and documentation requirements must be met to establish medical necessity:

1. Diagnostic monitoring:
   a. Diagnostic monitoring may be approved for payment to assess oxygen saturation:
      • When a consumer is weaning from oxygen and/or prior to weaning; or
      • On a periodic basis for oxygen dependent, clinically unstable consumers.
   b. Legible oximeter printouts of any prior oximeter monitoring and documentation of the resulting impact on the management of the consumer's care must be available upon request.
   c. Diagnostic monitoring is covered when provided to a consumer in response to a significant clinical event or exacerbation of clinical status that results in a critical change in oxygen saturation or that requires diagnostic monitoring in order to assess oxygen saturation.

2. Continuous monitoring:
Continuous oximeter monitoring in the home is appropriate in the management of pediatric consumers with prolonged oxygen dependency who are at risk of a critical fluctuation in oxygen saturation. Continuous home oximeter monitoring will include documentation by the managing prescriber that the consumer is clinically unstable with chronically compromised respiration and frequently varying oxygen requirements, at risk for critical fluctuations in oxygen saturation, and experiencing one or more of the following:

a. Frequent bradycardia
b. Frequent oxygen desaturation
c. Chronic lung disease
d. Ventilator dependent
e. Poor growth and development and suspect for inadequate oxygenation
f. Other risk factors that may result in sudden, critical fluctuations in oxygen saturation (hyperoxia, hypoxia)

Rental payments will be made for oximeters used for diagnostic and continuous monitoring. Oximeters will be considered for purchase when continuous monitoring is necessary for periods in excess of ten months. Subsequent monthly rental payments, less the cost of the probes, will be applied to the purchase price. The monthly rental payment amount includes reimbursement for:

1. Set up and instructions
2. Maintenance and repair
3. Emergency service visits or other interim visits
4. Supplies and accessories (cable, printer/printer tape, carrying case, etc.)
5. Permanent, reusable, or disposable probes (transducers) and probe wraps or tape

Oximeter probes may be purchased when for use in conjunction with continuous monitoring when a monitor is purchased and when a monitor is owned by the consumer, if continuous monitoring has been determined to be medically necessary.

CODING/BILLING INFORMATION
The appearance of a code in this section does not necessarily indicate coverage. Codes that are covered may have selection criteria that must be met. Payment for supplies may be included in payment for other services rendered.

CPT CODES
94760 Noninvasive ear or pulse oximetry for oxygen saturation; single determination
94761 Noninvasive ear or pulse oximetry for oxygen saturation; multiple determinations (eg, during exercise)
94762 Noninvasive ear or pulse oximetry for oxygen saturation; by continuous overnight monitoring (separate procedure)

HCPCS CODES
A4606 Oxygen probe for use with oximeter device, replacement
E0445 Oximeter device for measuring blood oxygen levels non-invasively

REVISION HISTORY EXPLANATION
10/15/09: No change.
01/10/17: Title changed from Home Pulse Oximeter Monitor to Pulse Oximetry for Home Use. Policy reviewed and updated to reflect most current clinical evidence per Medical Policy Steering Committee.

REFERENCES/RESOURCES
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS Manual System and other CMS publications and services
Ohio Department of Medicaid http://jfs.ohio.gov/
American Medical Association, Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) and associated publications and services
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System, HCPCS Release and Code Sets
Industry Standard Review
Hayes, Inc.