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Clinician Documentation Requirements - Blood Glucose Strips and Lancets

Durable Medical Equipment suppliers should not dispense a quantity of blood glucose monitoring supplies that exceeds the beneficiary's expected utilization without documentation to support the need for additional supplies. This is the cause for one of the highest Comprehensive Error Rate Testing (CERT) program errors. Prescribing clinicians should be aware of the following:

1. **Insulin** treated patients meeting coverage criteria can have up to 100 strips and up to 100 lancets **every** month.
2. **Non-insulin** treated patients meeting coverage criteria can have up to 100 strips and up to 100 lancets every **three** months.

If the supplies exceed these utilization guidelines, **there must be documentation in the clinician's records** that supports the patient is actually testing at a frequency that corroborates the quantity of supplies that have been ordered and dispensed. The treating clinician's that has ordered a frequency of testing that exceeds the utilization guidelines **must** document in the patient's medical record the **specific reason** for the additional materials for that particular patient.

Documentation examples may include:

1. A specific narrative statement that adequately documents the frequency at which the patient is actually testing
2. A copy of the beneficiary's test log
3. Lab results
4. Medication changes
5. Symptom management

If the patient is regularly using quantities of supplies that exceed the utilization guidelines, new documentation must be present at least every six months. **If documentation is not available to support the dispensing of excessive utilization of blood glucose monitoring supplies, suppliers are not allowed to bill for these supplies, as they will not be covered by Medicare.**

The prescribing clinician must provide accurate and complete **written** orders to the suppliers to support the medical necessity of the blood glucose strips and lancets. An order for each item must be signed and dated by the clinician who is treating the patient with diabetes. The written order for diabetic testing supplies must include **all** of the following elements:

1. Beneficiary name
2. Treating clinician's signature
3. Date of the treating clinician's signature (if prepared by someone other than the clinician)
4. Exact item(s) to be dispensed, such as lancets, strips, etc.
5. Date of the order
6. Specific frequency of testing

7. Note: An order that only states "as needed" or "use as directed" is **not** an acceptable written order as it does not provide the medical necessity for the supplies. This will result in a denial for claims selected for review.

Please refer to the Local Coverage Determination (LCD) L196 Glucose Monitors for further information. The policy may be accessed on the Noridian Medicare website.