COMPLIANCE ALERT

TO: Compliance Alert Distribution List

FROM: Maryann C. Palmater, CPC, CENTC, CPCO, CHC, AAPC Fellow
        Director, Office of Physician Billing Compliance

SUBJECT: New Medicare Coverage of Supervised Exercise Therapy (SET) for Symptomatic Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD)

DATE: February 19, 2018

A. Background: Supervised exercise therapy (SET) involves the use of intermittent walking exercise which alternates periods of walking to moderate-to-maximum claudication, with rest. SET has been recommended as the initial treatment for patients suffering from intermittent claudication (IC), the most common symptom experienced by people with peripheral artery disease (PAD).

B. Policy: On May 25, 2017, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a national coverage determination (NCD) to cover SET for patients with IC for the treatment of symptomatic PAD. Up to 36 sessions over a 12-week period are covered if all of the components of a SET program are met.

SET Required Beyond 36 Sessions: Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) have the discretion to cover SET beyond 36 sessions over 12 weeks and may cover an additional 36 sessions (up to 72 sessions) within 84 days from the date of the first session when the "-KX" modifier is on the claim line(s) for the services beyond the first 36 sessions. This is effective for claim lines with dates of services on or after May 25, 2017,

A second referral is required for additional sessions beyond the first 36. Documentation on file must support that further treatment beyond the 36 sessions of SET over a 12-week period meets the medical policy requirements.
C. SET Program Requirements:
- consists of sessions lasting 30-60 minutes comprising a therapeutic exercise-training program for PAD in patients with claudication;
- must be conducted in a hospital outpatient setting, or a physician’s office;
- must be delivered by qualified auxiliary personnel necessary to ensure benefits exceed harms, and who are trained in exercise therapy for PAD; and
- must be under the direct supervision of a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner/clinical nurse specialist who must be trained in both basic and advanced life support techniques.

SET is non-covered for patients with absolute contraindications to exercise as determined by their primary attending physician.

Referring Physicians: Patients must have a face-to-face visit with the physician (emphasis added) responsible for PAD treatment to obtain the referral for SET. At this visit, the patient must receive information regarding cardiovascular disease and PAD risk factor reduction, which could include education, counseling, behavioral interventions, and outcome assessments. SET is non-covered for patients with absolute contraindications to exercise as determined by their primary attending physician.

D. Billing:

CPT® Code: 93668 (Peripheral artery disease [PAD] rehabilitation, per session)

SET claims which exceed 36 sessions (up to 72 sessions) may be covered if billed within 84 days from the date of the first session when the "KX" modifier is on the claim line.

Valid Place of Service Codes: 11 (physician office), 19 (off-campus outpatient hospital), and 22 (on-campus outpatient hospital).

Current Covered ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes:
170.211 – right leg 170.611 – right leg
170.212 – left leg 170.612 – left leg
170.213 – bilateral legs 170.613 – bilateral legs
170.218 – other extremity 170.618 – other extremity
170.311 – right leg 170.711 – right leg
170.312 – left leg 170.712 – left leg
170.313 – bilateral legs 170.713 – bilateral legs
170.318 – other extremity 170.718 – other extremity

---

1 Medicare time requirements for sessions are 30-60 minutes. CPT’s definition of this procedure code indicates 45-60 minute sessions.

Patient Care • Research • Education

UF Health is a collaboration of the University of Florida Health Science Center, Shands hospitals and other healthcare entities.
E. Reimbursement:
Work RVUs are 0.00
Contractor Priced for 2017
2018 Medicare Facility and Non-facility allowable for Florida Locality 0910299: $19.00
2018 Medicare Facility and Non-facility allowable for Georgia Locality 1020299: $17.86
Subject to Medicare deductible and copayment.

EFFECTIVE DATE: MAY 25, 2017
IMPLEMENTATION DATE: APRIL 3, 2018 for MAC local edits

Sources:
MLN Matters No. MM10295 "Supervised Exercise Therapy (SET) for Symptomatic Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD)," February 6, 2018.

Please share with appropriate faculty, residents/fellows, nonphysician practitioners, and billing staff.

CC: Leon J. Haley, Jr., M.D., MHSA
    Elizabeth Ruszczyk, J.D.