



NEBULIZER MACHINES

SMALL VOLUME NEBULIZER MACHINES

Nebulizers are covered only in the following situations indicated below by the charts. The medical record needs documentation to support the medical necessity to administer one of the following inhalation drugs for one of the listed conditions:

Drug	HCPCS Code	Covered Condition	ICD-10 Codes*
Albuterol Arformoterol Budesonide Cromolyn Formoterol Ipratropium Levalbuterol Metaproterenol	J7611, J7613 J7605 J7626 J7631 J7606 J7644 J7612, J7614 J7669 J7620	Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	J41.0, J43.9, J44.0, J44.1, J44.9, J45.20, J45.21, J45.22, J45.30, J45.31, J45.32, J45.40, J45.41, J45.42, J45.50, J45.51, J45.52, J45.901, J45.902, J45.909, J45.990, J47.0, J47.1, J47.9, J68.2, J68.3, J68.4, J69.0, J69.1, J70.2, J70.3
Dornase alpha	J7639	Cystic Fibrosis	E84.0
Tobramycin	J7682	Cystic Fibrosis Bronchiectasis	E84.0, A15.0, J470, J47.1, J47.9, Q33.4
Acetylcysteine	J7608	Persistent Thick or Tenacious Pulmonary Secretions	J70.0-J70.5, J70.8, J70.9

*Frequently additional codes are required for documentation. Please refer to policy for other covered diagnoses.

If none of the drugs are used with a nebulizer are covered, the compressor, the nebulizer kit, and other related accessories/supplies will be denied as not reasonable and necessary.

Patient must have a face-to-face exam with the provider and the following must be addressed:

1. It must be documented in the medical record whether or not an inhaler is being used along with nebulizer. If no inhaler is being used, why is patient unable to use an inhaler?
2. Medications being used in the nebulizer must be documented in the medical record.

If patient has Medicare and a nebulizer compressor is not being billed to Medicare or has been purchased by Medicare, then the medications will be denied. This will happen if the patient is using someone else's nebulizer (spouse, friend). Also, if patient privately pays for a nebulizer, Medicare will not cover the medications. Medicare will cover one new nebulizer every 5 years.