

Alternating Pressure Pad (APP) or Gel Mattress Medicare Requirements

Written Order Prior to Delivery (WOPD)

- Beneficiary's name
- Detailed description of DME item(s)
- Prescribing practitioner's NPI
- Signature & signature date of the prescribing practitioner (*Hand written or electronic, no stamps*)
- Date of the order & start date (*If start date is different from the date of the order*)
- Prescribing practitioner's printed name (*Must be PECOS enrolled*)

The WOPD must be completed on or after the date of the Face to Face visit & completed by the same practitioner

Qualifying Guidelines¹

An APP or Gel Mattress is covered if one of the following three criteria is met:

1. The patient is completely immobile, i.e. cannot make changes in body position without assistance, **or**
2. The patient has limited mobility, i.e. cannot independently make changes in body position significant enough to alleviate pressure and has at least one of the conditions listed below, **or**
3. The patient has any stage pressure ulcer on the trunk or pelvis and has at least one of the conditions listed below

CONDITIONS FOR CRITERIA 2 & 3 ABOVE

In each case the medical record must document the severity of the condition sufficiently to demonstrate the medical necessity for a pressure reducing support surface

- Impaired nutritional status
- Fecal or urinary incontinence
- Altered sensory perception
- Compromised circulatory status

Face to Face/Chart Notes

- Documented in-person visit within 6 months prior to the written order
- Must reference the medical necessity of the APP or Gel Mattress by addressing the qualifying guidelines (*A diagnosis alone is not sufficient to meet Medicare coverage criteria*)
- Conducted by MD, DO, PA, NP or CNS
- **Must be signed by MD or DO** (*Hand written or electronic, no stamps*)

Chart Note Examples²

EXAMPLE 1:

Patient has a history of ulcers on the buttocks. The patient has a compromised circulatory system due to his Type II diabetes. Since his wife died he does not eat properly and for the past couple of years he has had a hard time walking and has been virtually immobile.

EXAMPLE 2:

Patient is completely immobile due to the progression of his Multiple Sclerosis. His caregiver helps him change body positions two or three times a day. He is incontinent and to help prevent any more ulcers the patient needs to be placed on a gel mattress. Provided the patient's caregiver additional education on wound prevention, incontinence care, and proper nutrition.

¹ See CMS National Coverage Determination (NCD) & Local Coverage Determination (LCD) for complete coverage policy

² Chart Note Examples are for illustrative purposes only and not specific to any patient's condition or treatment plan.