



Health & Human Services

## APNEA MONITOR

Reference the [Look-Up Tool](#) to determine if a code requires a Service Authorization

## DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT MANUAL

COVERAGE AND LIMITATION CRITERIA AND POLICIES

EFFECTIVE: March 2007

REVISED: September 2025

## APNEA MONITOR

### Indications and limitations of coverage and medical appropriateness:

At least **one** of the following conditions must be present for coverage of rental up to 6 months:

- Infant has significant apnea of 20 seconds or longer, **or**
- Infant has mild to moderate apnea and desaturates below 90%, **or**
- Infant has periodic breathing with desaturation below 90%.

### Continued Coverage:

For coverage beyond the initial six-month period, additional months must be prior authorized. The following conditions must exist and be documented by the physician/practitioner.

- Physician/practitioner documentation **must** include:
  - a. Number of apnea episodes during the previous two-month period of use; **and**
  - b. The infant continues to have significant alarms. (Log must be kept on file.); **and**
  - c. Unresolved symptomatic apnea; **and**
  - d. Tests and results of tests performed during the previous two-month period of use; **and**
  - e. Estimated additional length of time monitor would be needed; **and**
  - f. Any additional pertinent information the physician may wish to provide.



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### Documentation Requirements:

- A prescription from an ordering physician/practitioner.
- Physician/practitioner exam within 90 days of the service authorization start date.
- Physician/practitioner's documentation needs to address criteria for use of an apnea monitor, including the projected length of time equipment will be needed.

### Non-covered:

- According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, home apnea monitoring is not recommended in infants with siblings who were victims of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), and monitors used in these situations are not covered. Home apnea monitoring has not been proven to prevent sudden unexpected deaths in infants



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Date Revised	Revisions
January 2017	<p>Removed coverage criteria for apnea monitor requests for infants with siblings that were victims of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) and monitors, and added non-coverage rationale.</p> <p>Reviewed and revised.</p>
	<p>Reviewed and made the following revisions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Added Continued Coverage section and the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>For coverage after the initial six-month period, additional month's coverage must be prior authorized by the Department and the following conditions must exist and be documented by the practitioner.</li><li>Practitioner documentation <b>must</b> include:</li><li>Number of apnea episodes during the previous two-month period of use; <b>and</b></li><li>Infant continues to have significant alarms. (Log must be kept on file.); <b>and</b></li><li>Unresolved symptomatic apnea; <b>and</b></li><li>Tests and results of tests performed during the previous two-month period of use; <b>and</b></li><li>Estimated additional length of time monitor would be needed; <b>and</b></li><li>Any additional pertinent information the practitioner may wish to provide.</li></ul></li><li>Added new department logo.</li><li>Removed for coverage after the initial six-month period, additional month's coverage must be prior authorized by the Department and the following conditions must exist and be documented by the</li></ol>

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<b>APNEA MONITOR</b>	
June 11, 2020	<p>physician: infant continues to have significant alarms. (Log must be kept on file.) and unresolved symptomatic apnea.</p> <p>4. Added to the Documentation Requirement section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A prescription from an ordering physician/practitioner.</li> <li>• Physician/practitioner exam within 90 days of the service authorization start date.</li> </ul>
December 27, 2022	Reviewed and reformatted. Added new logo.
November 17, 2023	Reviewed and reformatted. Removed CMN SFN form number as no longer required.
September 11, 2025	Reviewed. Added the link to the Look-Up Tool to use to determine if code requires a service authorization.