



**BlueCross BlueShield
of Illinois**

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois Provider Manual

HMO Scope of Benefits Section

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois, a Division of Health Care Service Corporation, a Mutual Legal Reserve Company,
an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

Medical Supplies (Non-Durable Medical Equipment)

Benefit

Non-durable medical supplies are in benefit. Such items:

- Are usually disposable in nature or have a very limited useful lifetime;
- Cannot withstand repeated use;
- Primarily and customarily serve a medical purpose;
- Generally, are not useful to a person in the absence of illness or injury.
- Are ordered and/or prescribed by an IPA physician.

Items that are primarily for comfort or convenience or serve other than a primarily medical purpose, are not in benefit.

Medical Supplies for Home Use

Interpretation

These supplies are generally used to treat a medical condition by the member in the home. Examples of covered medical supplies are: lancets, chemstrips, urine drainage bags, catheters, colostomy supplies, slings, sterile bandages, sterile dressings, sharps containers, sterile alcohol prep pads, non-custom made compression stockings, batteries for insulin pumps, and stock orthotics not supplied in the physician's office such as cervical collars, elastic back braces, and tennis elbow bands.

Medical supplies that are generally useful even in the absence of a specific medical condition, injury, or disease are not covered. Examples include rubbing alcohol, Betadine® and other antiseptic solutions, cotton swabs or balls, Q-tips®, or adhesive tape. If the member has a chronic or long-term condition like osteomyelitis or dialysis-dependent chronic renal failure, he/she should contact the HMO Administrative offices for possible coverage of these items.

Note: Pharmacies and suppliers are not required to bill the HMO, but if a BCBSIL HMO Contracting Provider is used, the provider will most likely bill for the medical supply. If the IPA receives a bill, the IPA would follow the normal group approval process. If the member pays up front for the medical supply, the member must forward bills to the HMO for reimbursement.

In addition to the usual information, all claims submissions should include:

- Name of medical supplier
- Date(s) of purchase
- Type of medical equipment/supplies
- Purchase price
- Quantity
- IPA physician prescription or approval
- Diagnosis
- Receipt(s) verifying payment for supplies

Medical Supplies Used by the IPA

The IPA is responsible for medical supplies used in the office setting by an IPA professional. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Band-Aids®
- Splints
- 4x4 sterile dressings
- Ace® bandages
- Sutures
- Cervical collars
- Tissues
- Casting supplies
- Unna® boots
- Alcohol swabs

Paid by	Routine supplies used in office setting	IPA
	Professional Charges	IPA
	Medical supplies used in home setting	HMO

Note: Diabetic supplies are available through the pharmacy benefit program for those members with a BCBSIL drug card.