May 13, 2016

Breast Pump Authorizations

Dear Provider:

Kern Health Systems would like to inform providers that single-user electric (E0603) breast pumps no longer require prior authorization from KHS. KHS providers should request both manual (E0602) and single user electric (E0603) breast pumps directly from one of our contracted DME vendors.

Hospital-grade electric pumps (E0604) are still subject to prior authorization, and KHS providers must include documentation indicating medical necessity. The reason for medical necessity must be documented under the “Clinical History/Date of Onset” section of the referral form.

The criteria for coverage of hospital-grade electric breast pumps are detailed below.

Hospital-grade electric breast pumps are considered medically necessary by KHS when breastfeeding is established during the neonatal period (birth to 28 days of life), and documentation details:

- The mother has a medical condition that requires treatment of her breast milk before infant feeding; or
- The mother is receiving chemotherapy or other therapy with pharmaceutical agents that render her breast milk unsuitable for infant feeding; or
- The infant developed a medical condition or requires hospitalization that precludes direct nursing at the breast on a regular basis; or

If breastfeeding is not established during the neonatal period, breast pumps are considered medically necessary by KHS when documentation details:

- Any maternal medical condition that precludes direct nursing at the breast; or
- The infant has a congenital or acquired neuromotor or oral dysfunction that precludes effective direct nursing at the breast; or
- The infant has a congenital or acquired condition that precludes effective direct nursing at the breast; or
- The infant continues to be hospitalized and the mother is no longer an inpatient.

Hospital-grade electric breast pumps are reserved as a last resort when documentation suggests failure of the manual or electric pump or multiple births when manual or electric are unable to sustain breastfeeding.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the KHS Provider Relations Department at (661) 664-5566.