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Developed By: Medical Criteria Committee	

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**Description:**

Pulmonary rehabilitation is a restorative and preventative process for patients who are diagnosed with a chronic pulmonary disease. Pulmonary rehabilitation programs utilize a multidisciplinary approach in the areas of exercise training, psychosocial support, education, and follow-up. The purpose of the program is to help individuals improve their quality of life and restore them to their highest possible functional capacity.

**Criteria:**

Outpatient pulmonary rehabilitation will be covered to plan limitations when **ALL** of the following criteria are met:

1. The patient is referred by a board-certified pulmonologist or by a primary care physician who is actively involved in the patient's care; **and**
2. The patient has a diagnosis of chronic pulmonary disease or other condition that affects pulmonary function, such as one of the following:
  - a. Emphysema
  - b. Asthma
  - c. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
  - d. Cystic Fibrosis
  - e. Chronic Bronchitis
  - f. Asbestosis
  - g. Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency
  - h. Pneumoconiosis
  - i. Radiation Pneumonitis
  - j. Pulmonary Fibrosis
  - k. Fibrosing Alveolitis
  - l. Status Post Lung Resection
  - m. Ankylosing spondylitis
  - n. Muscular dystrophy
  - o. Guillain-Barre' syndrome
  - p. Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)
  - q. Sarcoidosis
  - r. Bronchopulmonary dysplasia
  - s. Paralysis of the diaphragm
- and**
3. The patient has a reduction of exercise tolerance which restricts the ability to perform activities of daily living; **and**
4. The patient does not have a recent history of smoking or has quit smoking for at least 3 months; **and**
5. The patient has a moderate to moderately severe functional pulmonary impairment as evidenced by FEV1 at values 25-60% of that predicted (values below 25% indicate severe disease process; levels over 60% indicate normalization); **and**
6. There are no other medical/psychological limitations such as uncontrolled congestive heart failure, acute MI within the last 6 months, uncontrolled arrhythmias, substance abuse, metastatic cancer, disabling stroke, or dementia; **or**
7. The patient is a lung transplant candidate or recipient

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**Limitations:**

- A typical course of pulmonary rehabilitation is outpatient and extends for up to 6-8 weeks.
- Coverage of pulmonary rehabilitation may be subject to applicable plan limitations for short-term rehabilitation therapies.

**Information to be Submitted with Pre-Authorization Request:**

1. The last six months of medical records from the ordering physician indicating diagnosis and current medical management.
2. Results of recent pulmonary function tests

**Applicable CPT/HCPC:**

**Note: list may not be all inclusive**

<b>G0237</b>	Therapeutic procedures to increase strength or endurance of respiratory muscles, face-to-face, one-on-one, each 15 minutes (includes monitoring)
<b>G0238</b>	Therapeutic procedures to increase respiratory function, other an described by G0237, one-on-one, face-to-face, per 15 minutes (includes monitoring)
<b>G0239</b>	Therapeutic procedures to improve respiratory function or increase strength or endurance of respiratory muscles, 2 or more individuals (includes monitoring)
<b>S9473</b>	Pulmonary rehabilitation program, non-physician provider, per diem

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