

# DME Doctor: HCPCS E0217



Date: June 3, 2009

To: Medicare HME Providers

Re: HCPCS E0217 Heat Therapy and Provider Safety

Dear Director of Reimbursement:

My name is Dr. Doran Edwards; I am the former Medical Director at SADMERC and an industry consultant. I am writing to guard you against potential misbranding and/or up-coding of HCPCS E0217 heat therapy systems. I am also writing on behalf of my client, Adroit Medical Systems, manufacturer of the HTP-1500 heat pump.

Be aware that Medicare accepts E0217 as a treatment for chronic pain, but Medicare does not accept E0217 as a treatment for diabetes. You should avoid products that claim to treat diabetes or diabetic neuropathy; advertisements as such constitute misbranding in that no heat therapy device is cleared by the FDA to treat diabetes. On the other hand, Adroit Medical's HTP-1500 is safe for all patients, including those with diabetes, for use in treating chronic pain.

You should also be aware that combination products (devices that offer treatment across Medicare policy coverage lines) can render an entire claim non-covered. Use of combination products with E0217 (i.e. ice therapy and heat therapy) can be regarded as up-coding. If you have been told that Medicare will allow dual treatments and accept it as one therapy, you have been misinformed. Providing cold therapy and failing to claim it, constitutes up-coding.

Therefore, if you are a provider of E0210, E0215 or E0217 heating pads, I recommend that you use Adroit Medical System's HTP-1500. The HTP-1500 is FDA 510k Approved and can be used with patients who may be unconscious or have diabetes or have oxygen equipment present. No one has ever been burned using the HTP-1500.

In closing, I have enclosed a checklist to assist you with what E0217 is, and what it is not. You can find more about the safe use of E0217 at <http://adroitmedical.com/resources.html>.

Respectfully submitted,

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