Introduction

A continuous passive motion (CPM) device moves or flexes a joint. This movement is done without the patient's help. A continuous passive motion device has been used most often after certain knee surgeries to allow the knee joint to slowly bend. Using CPM was very common; however, newer studies show that it does not improve the outcomes of knee surgery except in some complex knee surgeries, or when people have prolonged bed rest due to some other problem after knee replacement. Continuous passive motion usually starts in the hospital. For those who need it at home after knee surgery it is usually covered for 21 days. There are a number of high quality studies showing that CPM is effective for specific types of knee surgery. There are not enough high quality studies to show how effective CPM is for other joints. This policy describes when CPM is considered medically necessary.

Note: The Introduction section is for your general knowledge and is not to be taken as policy coverage criteria. The rest of the policy uses specific words and concepts familiar to medical professionals. It is intended for providers. A provider can be a person, such as a doctor, nurse, psychologist, or dentist. A provider also can be a place where medical care is given, like a hospital, clinic, or lab. This policy informs them about when a service may be covered.
This policy addresses CPM only in the home setting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure</th>
<th>Medical Necessity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Total knee arthroplasty (TKA) or TKA repair** | The use of continuous passive motion (CPM) in the home setting may be considered medically necessary as an adjunct to physical therapy in the following situations:  
  - The member is not able to ambulate or comply with rehabilitation exercises. Examples include:  
    - Complex regional pain syndrome (reflex sympathetic dystrophy)  
    - Extensive arthrofibrosis or tendon fibrosis  
    - Physical, mental, or behavioral inability to participate in active physical therapy  
  - Following TKA, CPM in the home setting will be allowable for up to 21 days after surgery while patients are immobile or unable to bear weight |

| Articular cartilage repair, such as:  | The use of CPM may be considered medically necessary as an adjunct to physical therapy in the following situations:  
  - During the non-weight-bearing rehabilitation period  
  - For up to 6 weeks maximum |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| microfracture  
osteochondral grafting  
autologous chondrocyte implantation  
treatment of osteochondritis dissecans  
repair of tibial plateau fractures |                                                                                                                                                       |

| Other                                | The use of CPM in the home setting for all other conditions not listed in this medical policy is considered not medically necessary.                      |

**Documentation Requirements**

The patient’s medical records submitted for review for all conditions should document that medical necessity criteria are met. The record should include the following:

- Documentation of the type of knee surgery member had undergone and that member can’t bear weight after surgery.
- For total knee replacement or total knee repair, additional documentation of the following:  
  - That member is not able to comply with physical therapy because of certain conditions.  
    Examples include:
Documentation Requirements

- Complex regional pain syndrome (reflex sympathetic dystrophy)
- Extensive arthrofibrosis or tendon fibrosis
- Physical, mental, or behavioral inability to participate in active physical therapy

Coding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HCPCS</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>E0935</td>
<td>Continuous passive motion exercise device for use on knee only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E0936</td>
<td>Continuous passive motion exercise device for use other than knee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Related Information

N/A

Evidence Review

Description

Continuous passive motion (CPM) devices are used to keep a joint in motion without patient assistance. CPM is being evaluated for treatment and postsurgical rehabilitation of the upper- and lower-limb joints and for a variety of musculoskeletal conditions.
Background

Physical therapy of joints following surgery focuses both on passive motion to restore mobility and on active exercises to restore strength. While passive motion can be administered by a therapist, CPM devices have also been used. CPM is thought to improve recovery by stimulating the healing of articular tissues and the circulation of synovial fluid; reducing local edema; and preventing adhesions, joint stiffness or contractures, or cartilage degeneration. CPM has been investigated primarily in the knee, particularly after total knee arthroplasty (TKA) or ligamentous or cartilage repair. Acceptance of its use in the knee joint has created interest in CPM for other weight-bearing joints (ie, hip, ankle, metatarsals) as well as non-weight-bearing joints (ie, shoulder, elbow, metacarpals, interphalangeal joints). Use of CPM in stroke and burn patients is also being explored.

The device used for the knee moves the joint (ie, flexion and extension) without patient assistance, continuously for extended periods of time (eg, up to 24 hours per day). An electrical power unit is used to set the variable range of motion (ROM) and speed. The initial settings for ROM are based on a patient’s level of comfort and other factors that are assessed intraoperatively. The ROM is increased by 3° to 5° per day, as tolerated. The speed and ROM can be varied, depending on joint stability. The use of the device may be initiated in the immediate postoperative period and then continued at home for a variable period of time.

Over time, hospital lengths of stay have progressively shortened, and in some cases surgical repair is done as an outpatient or with a length of stay of one to two days. As a result, there has been a considerable shift in the rehabilitation regimen, moving range of motion an intensive in-hospital program to a less intensive outpatient program. Some providers may want patients to continue CPM in the home setting as a means of duplicating the services offered with a longer (7-day) hospital stay.

The focus of the current policy is to examine the literature on the use of CPM in the home setting as it is currently being prescribed postoperatively. The relevant comparisons are treatment outcomes of CPM when used alone or with physical therapy, compared with physical therapy alone.

Summary of Evidence

For individuals who have TKA and receive CPM in the home setting, the evidence includes randomized controlled trials (RCTs), case series, and systematic reviews. The relevant outcomes are symptoms and functional outcomes. Early trials generally used CPM in the inpatient setting
and are less relevant to today’s practice patterns of short hospital stays followed by outpatient rehabilitation. Current postoperative rehabilitation protocols differ considerably from when the largest body of evidence was collected, making it difficult to apply available evidence to the present situation. For use of CPM after TKA, recent studies have suggested that institutional and home use of CPM has no benefit compared with standard physical therapy (PT). There were no studies evaluating CPM in patients who could not perform standard PT. The evidence is insufficient to determine that the technology results in an improvement in the net health outcomes.

For individuals who have articular cartilage repair of the knee who receive CPM in the home setting, the evidence includes nonrandomized studies, case series, and studies with nonclinical outcomes (eg, histology), and systematic reviews of these studies. The relevant outcomes are symptoms and functional outcomes. Systematic reviews of CPM for this indication have cited studies reporting better histologic outcomes in patients following CPM. A few studies have reported clinical outcomes, but inadequacies of these studies do not permit conclusions on efficacy. The evidence is insufficient to determine that the technology results in an improvement in the net health outcomes.

For individuals who have musculoskeletal conditions other than TKA or knee cartilage repair requiring PT who receive CPM in the home setting, the evidence includes RCTs for some conditions and case series for others. The relevant outcomes are symptoms and functional outcomes. Three small RCTs of CPM after rotator cuff surgery showed some evidence that CPM after this shoulder surgery improved short-term pain and range of motion (ROM); however, the trials were not high quality, and the small differences in outcomes may not be clinically important. Two trials reported short-term improvements in ROM for patients undergoing CPM, and one reported a short-term reduction in pain. None reported long-term improvements, and there are no reported benefits in functional status. Therefore, the clinical significance of the short-term improvements reported is uncertain. In addition, there is uncertainty about the optimal PT regimen following shoulder surgery such that the optimal treatment comparator for CPM is unclear. Two small RCTs compared CPM with conventional PT for treatment of adhesive capsulitis. One of the trials focused on diabetic patients with adhesive capsulitis. Both reported comparable improvements in ROM and functional ability between treatment groups. For other musculoskeletal conditions, RCTs do not exist; case series either did not show efficacy of CPM or had important methodologic flaws. The evidence is insufficient to determine that the technology results in an improvement in the net health outcomes.

For individuals who have had a stroke requiring PT who receive CPM in the home setting, the evidence includes one small RCT. The relevant outcomes are symptoms and functional outcomes. This trial reported a trend toward improved shoulder joint stability, but no statistical
difference between CPM plus PT compared to PT alone. The trial was small and treatment lasted only 20 days. The evidence is insufficient to determine that the technology results in an improvement in the net health outcomes.

Ongoing and Unpublished Clinical Trials

A currently ongoing trial that might influence this review is listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Summary of Key Trials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NCT No.</th>
<th>Trial Name</th>
<th>Planned Enrollment</th>
<th>Completion Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCT01420887</td>
<td>Preservation of Joint Function Using Postoperative Continuous Passive Motion (CPM): A Pilot Study</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>May 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NCT: national clinical trial

Clinical Input Range of Motion Physician Specialty Societies and Academic Medical Centers

While the various physician specialty societies and academic medical centers may collaborate with and make recommendations during this process, through the provision of appropriate reviewers, input received does not represent an endorsement or position statement by the physician specialty societies or academic medical centers, unless otherwise noted.

2016 Input

In response to requests, input was received range of motion two physician specialty societies and one academic medical center while this policy was under review in 2016. Input considered CPM medically necessary as an adjunct to physical therapy during the non-weight-bearing rehabilitation period following articular cartilage repair procedures of the knee. One reviewer referred to the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgery (2015) guidelines on the surgical
management of osteoarthritis of the knee, which concluded that there was strong evidence that CPM after knee arthroplasty does not improve outcomes.

2010 Input

In response to requests, input was received from two physician specialty societies and five academic medical centers while this policy was under review in 2010. Overall, clinical input supported the use of CPM under conditions of low postoperative mobility or inability to comply with rehabilitation exercises after TKA or TKA revision or during the non-weight-bearing rehabilitation period following articular cartilage repair procedures of the knee. Support was limited for use of CPM in joints other than the knee, or in situations or conditions other than those described in this policy.

2008 Input

In response to requests, input was received from one physician specialty society and two academic medical centers while this policy was under review in 2008. The three reviewers interpreted the existing literature supporting the use of CPM for the knee for at least 7 days postoperatively, whether in the hospital or home, and suggested that longer use of CPM would be warranted for special conditions.

Practice Guidelines and Position Statements

The purpose of the following information is to provide reference material. Inclusion does not imply endorsement or alignment with the evidence review conclusions.

Guidelines or position statements will be considered for inclusion if they were issued by, or jointly by, a U.S. professional society, an international society with U.S. representation, or National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). Priority will be given to guidelines that are informed by a systematic review, include strength of evidence ratings, and include a description of management of conflict of interest.
American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons

In 2015, the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) published evidence-based guidelines on the surgical management of osteoarthritis of the knee.45 The AAOS identified two high-quality studies and five moderate-quality studies that evaluated the use of CPM. In one high-quality study, CPM was used for about two weeks after discharge. The AAOS concluded that, “the combined results provide strong evidence that the surgical outcomes for those who used continuous passive motion are not better than for those who did not use continuous passive motion.”

French Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Society

In 2007, clinical practice guidelines from the French Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Society concluded that evidence is not sufficient to recommend substituting CPM for other rehabilitation techniques aimed at early mobilization after TKA.46 The evidence review did not find a positive effect of CPM over intermittent early mobilization, at short-term or long-term follow-up.

Medicare National Coverage

In 2005, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services issued a national coverage determination on durable medical equipment reference, which stated:

Continuous passive motion devices are devices covered for patients who have received a total knee replacement. To qualify for coverage, use of the device must commence within 2 days following surgery. In addition, coverage is limited to that portion of the 3-week period following surgery during which the device is used in the patient's home. There is insufficient evidence to justify coverage of these devices for longer periods of time or for other applications.47

Regulatory Status

CPM devices are considered class I devices by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and are exempt from 510(k) requirements. This classification does not require submission of clinical data on efficacy but only notification of the FDA prior to marketing.


38. Lindenhovius AL, van de Luijtgaarden K, Ring D, et al. Open elbow contracture release: postoperative management with and

May 1998; 23(3): 505-11. PMID 9620192

Jul-Sep 2008; 21(3): 261-6; quiz 267. PMID 18652971

41. Zeifang F, Carstens C, Schneider S, et al. Continuous passive motion versus immobilisation in a cast after surgical treatment of
PMID 16326882

42. Kasten P, Geiger F, Zeifang F, et al. Compliance with continuous passive movement is low after surgical treatment of idiopathic


46. Postel JM, Thoumie P, Missaoui B, et al. Continuous passive motion compared with intermittent mobilization after total knee
17412445

47. Center for Medicare & Medicaid. National Coverage Decision (NCD) for Durable Medical Equipment Reference List (280.1).

### History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08/11/15</td>
<td>New Policy. Add to Durable Medical Equipment section. In the Policy Guidelines, plan specific language allows using the device for up to 21 days. Literature current through June 3, 2015.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/01/16</td>
<td>Interim Update, approved September 13, 2016. Clinical input reviewed; reference 43 added. Policy statements unchanged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/24/17</td>
<td>Policy moved into new format; no change to policy statements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Comments</td>
</tr>
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<td>------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>07/01/17</td>
<td>Interim Review, approved June 22, 2017. The word “intra-” removed from the second bullet point of the first policy statement and from the text. Policy statements otherwise unchanged; rewritten for improved clarity.</td>
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<tr>
<td>05/01/18</td>
<td>Annual Review, approved April 18, 2018. Policy updated with literature review through January 2018; reference 33 added. Policy statements unchanged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/01/19</td>
<td>Annual Review, approved May 7, 2019. Policy updated with literature review through January 2019; no references added. Policy statements unchanged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/01/20</td>
<td>Delete policy, approved March 10, 2020. This policy will be deleted effective July 2, 2020, and replaced with InterQual criteria for dates of service on or after July 2, 2020.</td>
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<tr>
<td>07/02/20</td>
<td>Delete policy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>06/01/21</td>
<td>Annual Review, approved May 4, 2021. Policy updated with literature review through December 13, 2020; no references added.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Toll free 855-332-4535, Fax 425-918-5592, TTY 800-842-5357
Email AppealsDepartmentinquines@Premera.com

You can also file a grievance in person or by mail, fax, or email. If you need help filing a grievance, the Civil Rights Coordinator is available to help you.

You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf, or by mail or phone at:
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW, Room 509F, HHH Building
Washington, D.C. 20201, 1-800-368-1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD)

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