

40.1.2.6 - Nasopharyngeal and Tracheostomy Aspiration

(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)

A3-4118.1.B.6, HHA-205.1.B.6

Nasopharyngeal and tracheostomy aspiration are skilled nursing services and, if required to treat the patient's illness or injury, would be covered as skilled nursing services.

40.1.2.7 - Catheters

(Rev. 1, 10-01-03)

A3-3118.1.B.7, HHA-205.1.B.7

Insertion and sterile irrigation and replacement of catheters, care of a suprapubic catheter, and in selected patients, urethral catheters, are considered to be skilled nursing services. Where the catheter is necessitated by a permanent or temporary loss of bladder control, skilled nursing services that are provided at a frequency appropriate to the type of catheter in use would be considered reasonable and necessary. Absent complications, Foley catheters generally require skilled care once approximately every 30 days and silicone catheters generally require skilled care once every 60-90 days and this frequency of service would be considered reasonable and necessary. However, where there are complications that require more frequent skilled care related to the catheter, such care would, with adequate documentation, be covered.

EXAMPLE

A patient who has a Foley catheter due to loss of bladder control because of multiple sclerosis has a history of frequent plugging of the catheter and urinary tract infections. The physician has ordered skilled nursing visits once per month to change the catheter, and has left a "PRN" order for up to three additional visits per month for skilled observation and evaluation and/or catheter changes if the patient or caregiver reports signs and symptoms of a urinary tract infection or a plugged catheter. During the certification period, the patient's family contacts the HHA because the patient has an elevated temperature, abdominal pain, and scant urine output. The nurse visits the patient and determines that the catheter is plugged and there are symptoms of a urinary tract infection. The nurse changes the catheter and contacts the physician to report findings and discuss treatment. The skilled nursing visit to change the catheter and to evaluate the patient would be reasonable and necessary to the treatment of the illness or injury.