



PROVIDER POLICIES & PROCEDURES

ULTRAVIOLET B LIGHT THERAPY IN THE HOME SETTING

The primary purpose of this document is to assist providers enrolled in the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program (CMAP) with the information needed to support a medical necessity determination for ultraviolet B light therapy in the home setting. By clarifying the information needed for prior authorization of services, HUSKY Health hopes to facilitate timely review of requests so that individuals obtain the medically necessary care they need as quickly as possible.

Ultraviolet B (UVB) light therapy, also called phototherapy, is a treatment for severe and chronic skin conditions. The aim of UVB therapy is to reduce the rapid growth of skin cells and decrease inflammation. With UVB therapy, affected areas of the skin are exposed to artificial UV light through a light box.

CLINICAL GUIDELINE

Coverage guidelines for UVB light therapy are made in accordance with the DSS definition of Medical Necessity. The following criteria are guidelines *only*. Coverage determinations are based on an assessment of the individual and their unique clinical needs. If the guidelines conflict with the definition of Medical Necessity, the definition of Medical Necessity shall prevail. The guidelines are as follows:

UVB light therapy in the home setting may be considered medically necessary when the following criteria are met:

- A. The device is FDA approved, prescribed by a dermatologist, and appropriate for the extent of body surface involvement;
- B. The individual has a serious skin condition that is:
 1. Severe, extensive, chronic in nature requiring long-term maintenance therapy (e.g., psoriasis, severe eczema);
 2. Unresponsive to oral or topical medications;
- C. The individual has completed a trial with UVB light therapy and shown improvement;
- D. The individual can use the light box and comply with the treating dermatologist's instructions; and
- E. The individual requires light therapy at a frequency that cannot easily be managed in an outpatient setting, or the outpatient setting is located far from the individual's home.

NOTE: EPSDT Special Provision

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) is a federal Medicaid requirement that requires the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program (CMAP) to cover services, products, or procedures for Medicaid enrollees under 21 years of age where the service or good is medically necessary health care to correct or ameliorate a defect, physical or mental illness, or a condition identified through a screening examination. The applicable definition of medical necessity is set forth in Conn. Gen. Stat. Section 17b-259b (2011) [ref. CMAP Provider Bulletin PB 2011-36].

Please note that authorization is based on medical necessity at the time the authorization is issued and is not a guarantee of payment. Payment is based on the individual having active coverage, benefits and policies in effect at the time of service.

To determine if a service or procedure requires prior authorization, CMAP Providers may refer to the *Benefit and Authorization Grids* summaries on www.ct.gov/husky by clicking on "For Providers" followed by "Benefit Grids". For a definitive list of benefits and service limitations, CMAP Providers may access the CMAP provider fee schedules and regulations at www.ctdssmap.com.

PROCEDURE

Prior authorization for UVB light therapy is required. Requests for coverage are reviewed in accordance with procedures in place for reviewing requests for durable medical equipment. Coverage determinations are based upon a review of requested and/or submitted case-specific information.

Note: If all medical necessity criteria, as outlined in the *Clinical Guideline* section of this policy are met, an initial authorization for rental of the device will be granted for three months. After the initial three-month period, if all criteria as outlined in the *Clinical Guideline* section of this policy continue to be met, an authorization for purchase of the device will be given.

The following information is needed to review requests for UVB light therapy:

1. Fully completed authorization request via on-line web portal; and
2. A signed prescription, written within the past 12 months, from the treating physician, advanced practice registered nurse (APRN), or physician assistant (PA) enrolled in the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program (CMAP); and
3. Documentation from the treating provider, written within the past 12 months, as outlined in the *Clinical Guideline* section of this policy, supporting the medical need for UVB light therapy in the home.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This policy for the prior authorization for UVB light therapy in the home for individuals covered under the HUSKY Health Program is effective November 01, 2024.

LIMITATIONS

N/A

CODES:

Code	Description
E0693	Ultraviolet light therapy system panel, includes bulbs/lamps, timer and eye protection, 6 ft panel
E0694	Ultraviolet multidirectional light therapy system in 6 ft cabinet, includes bulbs/lamps, timer, and eye protection

DEFINITIONS

1. **HUSKY A:** Connecticut children and their parents or a relative caregiver; and pregnant women may qualify for HUSKY A (also known as Medicaid). Income limits apply.
2. **HUSKY B:** Uninsured children under the age of 19 in higher income households may be eligible for HUSKY B (also known as the Children's Health Insurance Program) depending on their family income level. Family cost-sharing may apply.
3. **HUSKY C:** Connecticut residents who are age 65 or older or residents who are ages 18-64 and who are blind, or have another disability, may qualify for Medicaid coverage under HUSKY C (this includes Medicaid for Employees with Disabilities (MED-Connect), if working). Income and asset limits apply.

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4. **HUSKY D:** Connecticut residents who are ages 19-64 without dependent children and who: (1) do not qualify for HUSKY A; (2) do not receive Medicare; and (3) are not pregnant, may qualify for HUSKY D (also known as Medicaid for the Lowest-Income populations).
5. **HUSKY Health Program:** The HUSKY A, HUSKY B, HUSKY C, HUSKY D and HUSKY Limited Benefit programs, collectively.
6. **HUSKY Limited Benefit Program or HUSKY, LBP:** Connecticut's implementation of limited health insurance coverage under Medicaid for individuals with tuberculosis or for family planning purposes and such coverage is substantially less than the full Medicaid coverage.
7. **Medically Necessary or Medical Necessity:** (as defined in Connecticut General Statutes § 17b-259b) Those health services required to prevent, identify, diagnose, treat, rehabilitate or ameliorate an individual's medical condition, including mental illness, or its effects, in order to attain or maintain the individual's achievable health and independent functioning provided such services are: (1) Consistent with generally-accepted standards of medical practice that are defined as standards that are based on (A) credible scientific evidence published in peer-reviewed medical literature that is generally recognized by the relevant medical community, (B) recommendations of a physician-specialty society, (C) the views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas, and (D) any other relevant factors; (2) clinically appropriate in terms of type, frequency, timing, site, extent and duration and considered effective for the individual's illness, injury or disease; (3) not primarily for the convenience of the individual, the individual's health care provider or other health care providers; (4) not more costly than an alternative service or sequence of services at least as likely to produce equivalent therapeutic or diagnostic results as to the diagnosis or treatment of the individual's illness, injury or disease; and (5) based on an assessment of the individual and his or her medical condition.
8. **Prior Authorization:** A process for approving covered services prior to the delivery of the service or initiation of the plan of care based on a determination by CHNCT as to whether the requested service is medically necessary.

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PUBLICATION HISTORY

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