

assists in achievement of goals toward independence in activities of daily living, adaptation to limitations and improved quality of life. Education must include information on respiratory problem management and, if appropriate, brief smoking cessation counseling.

(iii) Psychosocial assessment.

(iv) Outcomes assessment.

(v) An individualized treatment plan detailing how components are utilized for each patient. The individualized treatment plan must be established, reviewed, and signed by a physician every 30 days.

(3) *Settings.* (i) Medicare Part B pays for pulmonary rehabilitation in the following settings:

(A) A physician's office.

(B) A hospital outpatient setting.

(ii) All settings must have the following:

(A) A physician or nonphysician practitioner immediately available and accessible for medical consultations and emergencies at all times when items and services are being furnished under the program. This provision is satisfied if the physician or nonphysician practitioner meets the requirements for direct supervision for physician office services, at § 410.26 of this subpart; and for hospital outpatient services at § 410.27 of this subpart.

(B) The necessary cardio-pulmonary, emergency, diagnostic, and therapeutic life-saving equipment accepted by the medical community as medically necessary (for example, oxygen, cardiopulmonary resuscitation equipment, and defibrillator) to treat chronic respiratory disease.

(c) *Medical director standards.* The physician responsible for a pulmonary rehabilitation program is identified as the medical director. The medical director, in consultation with staff, is involved in directing the progress of individuals in the program and must possess all of the following:

(1) Expertise in the management of individuals with respiratory pathophysiology.

(2) Cardiopulmonary training in basic life support or advanced cardiac life support.

(3) Be licensed to practice medicine in the State in which the pulmonary rehabilitation program is offered.

(d) *Supervising practitioner standards.* Physicians or nonphysician practitioners acting as the supervising practitioner must possess all of the following:

(1) Expertise in the management of individuals with respiratory pathophysiology.

(2) Cardiopulmonary training in basic life support or advanced cardiac life support.

(e) *Limitations on coverage:* The number of pulmonary rehabilitation sessions are limited to a maximum of 2 1-hour sessions per day for up to 36 sessions over up to 36 weeks with the option for an additional 36 sessions over an extended period of time if approved by the Medicare Administrative Contractor.

(f) *Effective date.* Coverage for pulmonary rehabilitation program services is effective January 1, 2010.

[74 FR 62002, Nov. 25, 2009, as amended at 86 FR 65662, Nov. 19, 2021; 88 FR 79526, Nov. 16, 2023]

§ 410.48 Kidney disease education services.

(a) *Definitions.* As used in this section:

Kidney disease patient education services means face-to-face educational services provided to patients with Stage IV chronic kidney disease.

Physician means a physician as defined in section 1861(r)(1) of the Act.

Qualified person means either of the following healthcare entities that meets the qualifications and requirements specified in this section to provide kidney disease patient education services—

(i) One of the following healthcare professionals who furnishes services for which payment may be made under the physician fee schedule:

(A) Physician (as defined in section 1861(r)(1) of the Act).

(B) Physician assistant as defined in section 1861(aa)(5) of the Act and § 410.74 of this subpart).

(C) Nurse practitioner as defined in section 1861(aa)(5) of the Act and § 410.75 of this subpart).

(D) Clinical nurse specialist (as defined in section 1861(aa)(5) of the Act and § 410.76 of this subpart),

(ii)(A) A hospital, critical access hospital, skilled nursing facility, comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facility, home health agency, or hospice that is located in a rural area as defined in § 412.64(b)(ii)(C) of this chapter; or

(B) A hospital or critical access hospital that is treated as being rural under § 412.103 of this chapter.

Renal dialysis facility means a unit, which is approved to furnish dialysis service(s) directly to end-stage renal disease (ESRD) patients, as defined in § 405.2102 of this chapter.

Stage IV chronic kidney disease means kidney damage with a severe decrease in glomerular filtration rate (GFR) quantitatively defined by a GFR value of 15–29 ml/min/1.73m², using the Modification of Diet in Renal Disease (MDRD) Study formula.

(b) *Covered beneficiaries.* Medicare Part B covers outpatient kidney disease patient education services if the beneficiary meets all of the conditions and requirements of this subpart, including all of the following:

(1) Is diagnosed with Stage IV chronic kidney disease.

(2) Obtains a referral from the physician (as defined in section 1861(r)(1) of the Act) managing the beneficiary's kidney condition.

(c) *Qualified person.* (1) Medicare Part B covers outpatient kidney disease patient education services provided by a qualified person as defined in paragraph (a) of this section and must be able to properly receive Medicare payment under part 424 of this chapter.

(2) A qualified person does not include either of the following:

(i) A hospital, critical access hospital, skilled nursing facility, comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facility, home health agency or hospice if kidney disease patient education services are provided outside of a rural area as defined in § 412.64(b)(ii)(C) of this chapter unless the services are furnished in a hospital or critical access hospital that is treated as being in a rural area under § 412.103 of this chapter.

(ii) A renal dialysis facility, as defined in § 405.2102 of this chapter.

(d) *Standards for content of kidney disease patient education services.* The content of the kidney disease patient education services includes the following:

(1) The management of comorbidities including for the purpose of delaying the need for dialysis which includes, but not limited to, the following topics:

(i) Prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease.

(ii) Prevention and treatment of diabetes.

(iii) Hypertension management.

(iv) Anemia management.

(v) Bone disease and disorders of calcium and phosphorus metabolism management.

(vi) Symptomatic neuropathy management.

(vii) Impairments in functioning and well-being.

(2) The prevention of uremic complications which includes, but not limited to, the following topics:

(i) Information on how the kidneys work and what happens when the kidneys fail.

(ii) Understanding if remaining kidney function can be protected, preventing disease progression, and realistic chances of survival.

(iii) Diet and fluid restrictions.

(iv) Medication review, including how each medication works, possible side effects and minimization of side effects, the importance of compliance, and informed decision-making if the patient decides not to take a specific drug.

(3) Therapeutic options, treatment modalities, and settings, including a discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of each treatment option and how the treatments replace the kidney, which includes, but not limited to, the following topics:

(i) Hemodialysis, both at home and in-facility.

(ii) Peritoneal dialysis (PD), including intermittent PD, continuous ambulatory PD, and continuous cycling PD, both at home and in-facility.

(iii) All dialysis access options for hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis.

(iv) Transplantation.

(4) Opportunities for beneficiaries to actively participate in the choice of therapy and be tailored to meet the needs of the individual beneficiary involved which includes, but not limited to, the following topics:

- (i) Physical symptoms.
- (ii) Impact on family and social life.
- (iii) Exercise.
- (iv) The right to refuse treatment.
- (v) Impact on work and finances.
- (vi) The meaning of test results.
- (vii) Psychological impact.

(5) Qualified persons must develop outcomes assessments designed to measure beneficiary knowledge about chronic kidney disease and its treatment.

(i) The outcomes assessments serve to assess program effectiveness of preparing the beneficiary to make informed decisions about their healthcare options related to chronic kidney disease.

(ii) The outcomes assessments serve to assess the program's effectiveness in meeting the communication needs of underserved populations, including persons with disabilities, persons with limited English proficiency, and persons with health literacy needs.

(iii) The assessment must be administered to the beneficiary during a kidney disease education session.

(iv) The outcomes assessments must be made available to CMS upon request.

(e) *Limitations for coverage of kidney disease education services.* (1) Medicare Part B makes payment for up to 6 sessions of kidney disease patient education services.

(2) A session is 1 hour long and may be provided individually or in group settings of 2 to 20 individuals who need not all be Medicare beneficiaries.

(f) *Effective date.* Medicare Part B covers kidney disease patient education services for dates of service on or after January 1, 2010.

[74 FR 62003, Nov. 25, 2009]

§ 410.49 Cardiac rehabilitation program and intensive cardiac rehabilitation program: Conditions of coverage.

(a) *Definitions.* As used in this section:

Cardiac rehabilitation (CR) means a physician or nonphysician practitioner supervised program that furnishes physician prescribed exercise, cardiac risk factor modification, psychosocial assessment, and outcomes assessment.

Individualized treatment plan means a written plan tailored to each individual patient that includes all of the following:

(i) A description of the individual's diagnosis.

(ii) The type, amount, frequency, and duration of the items and services furnished under the plan.

(iii) The goals set for the individual under the plan.

Intensive cardiac rehabilitation (ICR) program means a physician or nonphysician practitioner supervised program that furnishes cardiac rehabilitation and has shown, in peer-reviewed published research, that it improves patients' cardiovascular disease through specific outcome measurements described in paragraph (c) of this section.

Intensive cardiac rehabilitation site means a hospital outpatient setting or physician's office that is providing intensive cardiac rehabilitation utilizing an approved ICR program.

Medical director means the physician who oversees the cardiac rehabilitation or intensive cardiac rehabilitation program at a particular site.

Nonphysician practitioner means a physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist as those terms are defined in section 1861(aa)(5)(A) of the Act.

Outcomes assessment means an evaluation of progress as it relates to the individual's rehabilitation which includes all of the following:

(i) Evaluations, based on patient-centered outcomes, which must be measured by the physician or program staff at the beginning and end of the program. Evaluations measured by program staff must be considered by the physician in developing and/or reviewing individualized treatment plans.

(ii) Objective clinical measures of exercise performance and self-reported measures of exertion and behavior.

Physician means a doctor of medicine or osteopathy as defined in section 1861(r)(1) of the Act.