National Guideline

for

(Positive) Airway Pressure & Humidification Equipment

(RAP Schedule Items AY01, AY03, AY14, AY17 & AY19)

Definition of Equipment

Positive Airway Pressure

Sleep related breathing disorders (SRBD) are a spectrum of disorders where impaired breathing during sleep impacts on daytime functioning.

There are three types of Positive Airway Pressure (PAP) devices/machines; continuous (CPAP), bi-level (BiPAP) and automatic self-adjusting (APAP). The patient interface is most commonly via a nasal mask, covering the nose only, but full-face masks, covering the mouth and nose, and other devices are available.

Humidification Equipment

Is a range of equipment that humidifies, warms and filters air to improve respiration, particularly in situations where the upper respiratory tract is bypassed e.g. a tracheostomy or

Humidifiers may be used in conjunction with PAP ventilation to reduce the likelihood of conditions that may result in lower respiratory tract infections.

Ancillary equipment

Battery back-up/invertors

To support DVA clients using equipment, where the DVA client is at special risk from temporary failure of their equipment as a result of:

• Verifiable, frequent power failures e.g. twice weekly interruptions to power supply,

or

• No mains power (240v) available to operate the device/machine e.g. camping and sailing etc.

An inverter, deep cycle batter can be supplied.

Generators

Generators do not appear on the RAP schedule and consequently cannot be issued to PAP patients. An inverter, deep cycle battery is sufficient to maintain power to a PAP device/machine while camping/caravanning etc., and can be recharged through a motor vehicle.

Australian Standards

The Therapeutic Goods Association (TGA) is responsible for the approval of medical devices in Australia, before they may be used for patient care.

Initial request

Prescriptions for equipment should be sent to a DVA contracted supplier by an approved prescriber:

- Respiratory Physician;
- Respiratory Clinic/Sleep Center; or
- ENT Specialist.

Prescribers must complete the DVA Application for PAP Therapy Equipment (Form D9140), found at: www.dva.gov.au/dvaforms/Documents/D9140.PDF

Where there is insufficient information on the prescription, the contracted supplier is responsible for contacting the prescriber and obtaining the relevant information.

Criteria for Provision

Requests for equipment must follow a Polysomnographic Sleep Study to confirm the presence of a SRBD.

Equipment should not be sourced from a non-contracted supplier. There are several choices of supplier for each product group on the RAP Schedule which can provide all equipment covered by this Guideline.

Resupply of Equipment

Replacement PAP device/machine

Requests for a replacement PAP device/machine must be forwarded by an approved prescriber on the completed DVA Application for PAP Therapy Equipment (Form D9140) to a DVA contracted supplier, details are provided on the form.

Accessories and consumables

Requests for accessories and consumables (e.g. filters, hoses and masks) should be forwarded to a DVA supplier if it has been longer than three (3) months since the last request.

If the request does not meet the conditions outlined above or the DVA client has purchased the device/machine privately, a new request should be submitted on a DVA Application for PAP Therapy Equipment (Form D9140).

Requests for an additional PAP device/machine

Approved prescribers are to complete and forward the DVA Application for PAP Therapy Equipment (Form D9140) including the reason/s for the additional device/machine and any supporting documentation to DVA rapgeneralenquiries@dva.gov.au for consideration through the prior approval process.

Additional Considerations for PAP machines

The most suitable PAP device/machine should be prescribed to the DVA client, depending on their clinical needs and to maximise compliance with treatment.

Travel PAP device/machine

If the DVA client is a frequent traveller, a smaller or portable machine can be considered. Generally, a DVA client only needs one PAP device/machine for all their clinical needs. However, if there is a demonstrated need for two PAP devices/machines to be provided to facilitate continued compliance with treatment when travelling, and the DVA client has been identified as compliant with their PAP treatment regime, this can be supplied. If another PAP device/machine has been supplied to the DVA client within the previous 12 months, prior approval will be required as outlined above.