



STATE OF TENNESSEE
BUREAU OF TENNCARE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
P.O. Box 000593
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37202-0593

Policy Clarification Memorandum

TO: MCC CEOs, Medical Directors, UM Managers, and Appeals Coordinators
FROM: Patti Killingsworth, Assistant Commissioner/Chief Administrative Officer
Date: October 4, 2006

In our continuing efforts to clarify coverage policy for TennCare services, please note that Exclusions Rules (TennCare Rule 1200-13-13-.10 and 1200-13-14-.10) do **not** exclude TennCare coverage of ostomy supplies when such items are medically necessary.

TennCare Rules 1200-13-13-.10(3)(a)(16) and 1200-13-14-.10(3)(a)(16) specify that “Services, products, and supplies that are specifically excluded from coverage except as medically necessary for children under the age of 21...[include]...[m]edical supplies, over-the-counter,

as follows [emphasis added]:

- (i) Alcohol, rubbing
- (ii) Band-aids
- (iii) Cotton balls
- (iv) Eyewash
- (v) Peroxide
- (vi) Q-tips or cotton swabs"

The phrase “*as follows*” was chosen very carefully to specify those medical supply items (and *only* those medical supply items) which the Bureau intends to exclude from coverage for all adults age 21 and older. A phrase such as “*including, but not limited to*” would have permitted a much broader interpretation than was intended by these Rules.

Ostomy supplies are not specified as excluded medical supply items and remain covered as medically necessary for both children and adults in TennCare.

Again, we want to reiterate that you should interpret these rules *literally* and *precisely*, being careful not to expand upon specific exclusions identified therein. If you have any questions regarding these clarifications, or any other questions pertaining to interpretation of the Exclusions Rules, please let us know—in particular if you are anticipating denial of a service on the basis that such item is excluded from coverage when such exclusion is not part of the literal and precise (“plain language”) reading of the applicable rule.

Please ensure that these clarifications are promptly provided to all staff, as appropriate. Thank you.

Cc: Dr. Wendy Long
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