



HomeCall of Stillwater, Inc.
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HomMed™ Home
Monitoring System

FREQUENTLY
ASKED
QUESTIONS



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The following represent questions frequently asked by our referring physicians. If you have additional questions or need more information, please contact us.

What are the benefits of in-home monitoring services?

For the physician:

- Helps break the cycle of emergency care and hospital readmission for patients with chronic illnesses [CHF, COPD, etc.].
- Increases patient compliance with the treatment plan by reinforcing the importance of medications, diet and other interventions.
- Helps the physician identify the need for additional office visits to adjust treatments.
- Provides the physician with trend reports of clinical progress for documentation in the medical record as requested.
- Hospital-grade equipment is *more accurate* than the scales and monitoring devices used by patients in the home. As a result, the physician is able to detect subtle changes in clinical status and adjust treatment *before* a patient's condition deteriorates.

For the patient and family:

- Encourages patient independence by reinforcing the behavior and lifestyle changes needed to promote health.
- Gives concerned family members the peace of mind that a professional nurse is “keeping an eye” on the patient on a daily basis and communicating important information to the physician.
- Fosters active patient participation in the plan of care, producing better outcomes.

For the home health agency:

- Allows the home health agency to monitor the vital signs and clinical status of high-risk patients on a daily and PRN basis.

What clinical data can the home monitor collect and transmit?

Daily and PRN measurements can be made of **heart rate, blood pressure, mean arterial pressure, weight, oxygen saturation, temperature, blood glucose levels, lung capacity, and prothrombin time.**

Which patients should I consider for referral?

Recommended referral criteria include patients with:

- Two or more ER visits for exacerbation of a medical problem.
- Recent hospitalization for exacerbation of an illness.
- Poor compliance with diet, medications, or self-monitoring instructions.
- Any condition requiring frequent monitoring or trending of vital signs to facilitate management.
- Patients who, if monitored at home, could avoid admission to a nursing home.

What are the exclusion criteria for monitoring services?

The following patient types are **not recommended** for in-home monitoring:

- Patients who are physically or cognitively unable to follow simple instructions and have no family member to assist them.
- Patients who are combative or have other behavioral problems that would limit compliance with self-monitoring.
- Patients not conducive/safe for home monitoring.



Will monitoring reduce the need for follow-up office visits?

Physicians who have used this technology find the opposite to be true. Prompt communication of abnormal parameters and routine trend reports allows the physician to detect subtle changes in clinical status *before a patient's condition deteriorates.* **This proactive approach to patient management encourages the scheduling of more timely follow-up visits for the purpose of making incremental adjustments to the treatment plan.**

Does Medicare cover monitoring services?

At the present time, Medicare does not cover home monitoring services. However, with the increased focus on shorter hospital stays, CMS recognizes the value of this technology in increasing the quality of care for high-risk patients. In fact, CMS is currently funding a study at Georgetown University using the HomMed™ monitoring equipment as the most promising technology available to date. The purpose of this study is to explore the feasibility of Medicare reimbursement for home monitoring services.

How will my patients pay for home monitoring services?

- Medicare-eligible patients who are referred to HomeCall of Stillwater, Inc. for home care services and meet the selection criteria will be monitored at no cost to the patient.
- Patients not being followed by HomeCall of Stillwater, Inc. have the option of leasing the monitoring service at a nominal fee. Studies show that both patients and concerned family members place considerable value on the peace of mind this service offers them.