

CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL

CHAPTER: 2
SECTION: 17.12
TITLE: COLD THERAPY DEVICES FOR HOME USE

AUTHORITY: 38 USC 1713; 38 CFR 17.270(a) and 17.272(a)

RELATED AUTHORITY: 32 CFR 199.4(d)(3)(ii) and 199.5(h)(2)(ii)

TRICARE POLICY MANUAL: Chapter 7, Sections 3.6

I. EFFECTIVE DATE

April 19, 1983

II. DESCRIPTION

Cold therapy devices generally consist of a picnic-type chest cooler in which is placed a quantity of ice and water and into which is submerged a low voltage submersible pump an in-line thermometer and flow control valve. Water is circulated by way of a plastic tube to a hollow rubber pad which is placed on the affect body part, and back to the water chest. The device is sold under various trade names such as: Aqua K pad, polar care device, cryo-cuff or other similar designations.

III. POLICY

Cold therapy devices are excluded from coverage since they do not meet the definition of durable medical equipment. They are not primarily medical in nature, even though used to control pain, do not preclude the use of analgesics in conjunction with the cold therapy, and ultimately, except for the convenience of the commercial devices, ice packs have been shown to serve the same purpose.

END OF POLICY