

## CHAMPVA POLICY MANUAL

**CHAPTER:** 2  
**SECTION:** 17.16  
**TITLE:** HOT THERAPY DEVICES FOR HOME USE

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

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

**TRICARE POLICY MANUAL:** Chapter 7, Sections 3.6A

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### I. EFFECTIVE DATE

April 19, 1983

### II. DESCRIPTION

Hot therapy devices are a thermostatically controlled unit or pad which provides continuous heat. The device is sold under various trade names such as: Aqua K pad or Aqua control unit.

### III. POLICY

Hot 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 hot therapy, and ultimately, except for the convenience of the commercial devices, heating pads have been shown to serve the same purpose.

**\*END OF POLICY\***