

August 18, 1999

Mr. Leonard Horowitz, President  
Mason Medical Products  
8000 Cooper Avenue, Building 28  
Glendale, NY 11385

Re: Sierra 3" Gel Mattress Overlay

Dear Mr. Horowitz:

This is in response to the letter received in our office on August 6, 1999 from Mr. Robert Wanerman. He requested written confirmation on the correct Medicare billing code for the Sierra 3" Gel Mattress Overlay.

Based on a review completed on June 19, 1996 by the SADMERC and the four Durable Medical Equipment Regional Carriers (DMERCs), it was determined that the Gel-U-Sleep 3" Gel Mattress Overlay met the characteristics and description of the code for a gel or gel-like pressure pad for mattress. Therefore, the correct Medicare billing code for this product is

**E0185 Gel or gel-like pressure pad for mattress.**

On November 26, 1996, we received written notification from Jim Acker, National Sales Manager at Mason Medical Products, regarding a name change of the Gel-U-Sleep 3" Gel Mattress Overlay to the Sierra 3" Gel Mattress Overlay. The new product name was added to the Support Surfaces Product Classification List and the Medicare billing code remained the same.

Based on a review completed on December 15, 1998 by the SADMERC and the four Durable Medical Equipment Regional Carriers (DMERCs), it was determined that the Sierra III Gel Mattress Overlay met the characteristics and description of the code for a dry pressure pad for mattress. Therefore, the correct Medicare billing code for this product is

**E0199 Dry pressure pad for mattress, standard mattress length and width.**

**Palmetto Government Benefits Administrators, LLC**

Statistical Analysis Durable Medical Equipment Regional Carrier  
Post Office Box 100143 • Columbia, South Carolina • 29202-3143

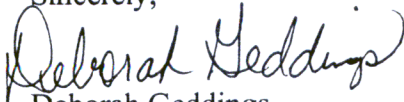
***A HCFA Contracted Intermediary and Carrier***

- 2) Foam with a density and other qualities that provide adequate pressure reduction, and
- 3) Durable, waterproof cover, and
  
- 4) Can be placed directly on a hospital bed frame.

The Gel-U-Sleep mattress has a 2" layer of gel and 2 layers of foam totalling 3" for a total product height of 5" for the mattress. The gel is encapsulated within the foam, therefore, this mattress is best described as a foam mattress. The Vari-Zone II mattress base is only 1 3/4 inches and does not meet the description of an existing code.

Thank you for your patience in this matter. If you have any questions or concerns about this coding decisions, please contact me at the above address, or by telephone at (803) 788-0222, extension 41010.

Sincerely,



Deborah Geddings  
HCPCS Coordinator  
SADMERC

CC: DMERCs