



DMEMACs Update Coverage Policy to Include Payment for Alginate and Other Fiber Gelling Dressings as Secondary Dressings as a Result of Alliance Advocacy

October 30, 2020 – The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services’ (CMS) Durable Equipment Medical Administrative Contractors (DMEMACs) updated its “Local Coverage Article: Surgical Dressings” to include payment for secondary, as well as primary, use of alginate and other fiber gelling dressings. Prior to the October 15, 2020 [Policy Article Update](#) (A54563), these products were only reimbursed when used as primary dressings. The new policy is retroactive to January 1, 2020.

“This is a huge win for wound care patients, practitioners and manufacturers,” said Marcia Nusgart, executive director, Alliance of Wound Care Stakeholders, the united voice of the wound care clinical community protecting quality care and access to products and services for people with wounds. “This policy addition is a direct result of the Alliance’s tenacious advocacy, which included months of conversations with the DMEMAC medical directors. In fact, the specific revision language we asked for was included in the Policy Article. This is illustrative of the type of advocacy work the Alliance undertakes.”

By providing coverage and thus payment for these important wound care products, the updated policy allows wound care clinicians further access to them to treat their patients. In addition, the DMEMACs’ coverage policies will now be in line with manufacturers’ existing instructions for use (IFUs), which specified that alginate and other fiber gelling dressings were intended for both primary and secondary use.

About the Alliance of Wound Care Stakeholders

[The Alliance of Wound Care Stakeholders](#), a 501(c)(6) nonprofit, is a multidisciplinary trade association of medical specialty societies and clinical associations that unites leading wound care organizations and business entities to advocate on public policy issues that may create barriers to patient access to treatments or care. Focusing on coding, coverage and reimbursement, quality measures, and wound care research, its mission is to promote quality care and access to products and services for people with wounds. Since its founding in 2002, the Alliance has educated its members, businesses, private and public payers and regulators, and legislators about the impact that policies have on the quality of wound care. For more information, please visit <https://www.woundcarestakeholders.org>.