



# University Services

*Sleep Diagnostic & Treatment Centers*

## NOTICE

December 2008

Effective November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008, Medicare requires that all patients who have been prescribed a Positive Airway Pressure device (such as CPAP) for treatment of Obstructive Sleep Apnea demonstrate successful use of the equipment over the initial 12 week period in order for the device to be a covered Medicare benefit.

### **What does this mean?**

**Continued patient care and compliance monitoring are now mandatory for Medicare patients and it is the responsibility of the prescribing Physician to track the patient.**

University Services has been following these standards for all of our patients, not just those on Medicare, since 2006. The following is a brief description of the Patient Care Plan that University Services follows for all patients on Positive Airway Pressure Therapy:

1. Each machine prescribed by our Board Certified Sleep Physician has a built-in data collection system that allows our Compliance Coordinators to determine the exact level of use by the patient.
2. The University Services' Compliance Coordinator adheres the following protocol to assist patients with their Therapy:
  - a. The Patient is called within the first week of treatment initiation to obtain patient feedback on their Therapy.
  - b. At 1 month and 3 months, the patient will return to the University Services Sleep Center with their equipment. The compliance data will be downloaded, analyzed and reviewed with the patient. If the patient is non-compliant at any point our trained staff of Sleep Professionals will assist them in getting the proper equipment or services to ensure successful treatment.
  - c. The compliance data from 3 month appointment is provided to the Home Medical Equipment/Durable Medical Equipment Company that placed the equipment with the patient to ensure that the device continues to be covered by Medicare.

At University Services, the patient care does not end at 3 months. Our Patient Care Program is a lifelong commitment to our patients.

Depending on the severity of the patient's Obstructive Sleep Apnea, either a complete overnight re-evaluation or equipment compliance data check will be done at 6 months after initiation of treatment. Annual re-evaluations for all patients is the Standard of Care as set forth by The American Academy of Sleep Medicine. As such, our dedicated team of Sleep Professionals require that each and every patient on Positive Airway Pressure Therapy be evaluated yearly.

University Services is available to answer any questions that may arise regarding this new Medicare requirement. Please call 866.933.2330 to learn more.