Information about Medical Equipment and B.B. v. Miller

Removeable medical equipment is available for all MA recipients.

• However, the plaintiff class for B.B. v. Miller is limited to children under the age of 21 who have mobility impairments.

The retroactive date for coverage of the equipment is April 1, 2020.

• However, class members who were denied coverage on or after July 1, 2017 may submit a renewed request for the equipment.

What is Covered

Wheelchair lifts, stair glides, ceiling lifts, metal accessibility ramps and other items that are used by a beneficiary with a mobility impairment to enter and exit the home or to support activities of daily living; and are removeable or reusable without damage to the item.

Coverage includes installation. Installation of the medical equipment and appliances includes, but is not limited to:

a. Parts or supplies provided or recommended by the manufacturer for attaching or mounting the item to the surface at the home or residence;

b. Labor to attach or mount the item to a surface per the manufacturer’s installation guide;

c. Required permits;

Protecting and advancing the rights of people with disabilities
d. Installing an electrical outlet or connection to an existing electrical source;

e. Pouring a concrete foundation (slab) according to the manufacturer’s instructions (which may include leveling the ground under the concrete foundation);

f. External supports, such as bracing a wall;

g. Removing a portion of an existing railing or bannister only as needed to accommodate the equipment.

*The Federal regulations clarify that this equipment must be made available to recipients in any setting in which normal life activities take place, so if it is needed in a community setting, is medically necessary, and is not duplicative or used by other people, Medicaid should pay as the payor of last resort.

What is Not Covered

Home modifications are not covered. Home modifications include:

a. Modifications to the home or place of residence;

b. Repairs of the home, including repairs caused by the installation, use, or removal of the medical equipment or appliance; and

c. Changes to the internal or external infrastructure of the home or residence including:

   i. Adding internal supports such that the support requires access to the area behind a wall or ceiling or underneath the floor;

   ii. Constructing retaining walls or footers for a retaining wall;

   iii. Installation of or modification of a deck;

   iv. Installation of a driveway or sidewalk;

   v. Upgrading the electrical system;

   vi. Plumbing;
vii. Ventilation or HVAC work;
viii. Widening a doorway;
ix. Drywall;
x. Painting;
xi. Installation of flooring;
xii. Tile work;
xiii. Demolition of existing property or structure.

Other

- Until at least June 25, 2022, DHS will require each MCO to identify a case manager or other staff person to assist each class member who submits a request for Removable Mobility Devices.

- Prior authorization is required for the purchase of all appliances or equipment if the appliance or equipment costs more than $600. DHS also requires prior authorization for the purchase of some appliances or equipment that cost less than $600. Because this equipment will almost always cost more than $600, prior authorization should be assumed.