Limitations and Special Conditions for Home Modifications

Definition: Those physical adaptations to the private residence and/or vehicle of the participant or the participant's family, required by the participant's service plan, that are necessary to ensure the health, welfare and safety of the participant or that enable the participant to function with greater independence in the home. Such adaptations include the installation of ramps and grab-bars, widening of doorways, modification of bathroom facilities, or the installation of specialized electric and plumbing systems that are necessary to accommodate the medical equipment and supplies that are necessary for the welfare of the participant. Excluded are those adaptations or improvements to the home that are of general utility, and are not of direct medical or remedial benefit to the participant. Adaptations that add to the total square footage of the home are excluded from this benefit except when necessary to complete an adaptation (e.g. in order to improve entrance/egress to a residence or to configure a bathroom to accommodate a wheelchair). All shall be provided in accordance with applicable State or local building codes and are prior approved on an individual basis by DHS.

Limitations:

Home Modifications-

- All items require Prior Authorization and do not require a Physician's order.
- All items must be recommended by an appropriately trained and certified rehabilitation professional.
- There are no less costly or conservative means to meet the recipient's need for accessibility within the home.
- Items must be necessary to ensure the health, welfare and safety of the individual, or must enable the individual to function with greater independence in the home, and to avoid institutionalization.
- Home Modifications shall be made only to the recipient's primary residence, including rented apartments or houses (with written permission of the owner/landlord, when applicable).
- Exterior access modifications are limited to one ingress/egress route into and out of the home.
- Repair, removal, construction or replacement of decks, patios, sidewalks and fences are not covered.
- Home Modifications do not include those adaptations or improvements to the home that are considered to be standard housing obligations of the owner or tenant.
- Relocation of plumbing and/or bathroom fixtures are not covered.
- Repairs or Modifications to equipment purchased under this definition are an allowable expense.
- Examples of items not covered include driveways, decks, patios, hot tubs, central heating and air conditioning, raised garage doors, standard home fixtures (i.e., sinks, tub, stove, refrigerator, etc.).
- Requirements for Modifications to rental property include:

- Prior to any modification a determination should be made as to what, if anything, is the legal responsibility of the property owner or landlord.
- Written approval must be obtained from the property owner or landlord prior to the service being approved. Please attach form GW-RA.

- **Ramps** may be covered only if:
  - They meet ADA compliance and
  - meet all applicable State and local building code requirements and permits as required.
  - Ramp should be of a nature that it is readily transferable to another dwelling.

- **Vertical Platform Lifts** may be covered only if:
  - There is not adequate acreage available to install a ramp that meets state and local building codes.
  - The physical topography of the site precludes the installation of a ramp.

- **Interior Stairway Lifts** (stair glides) may be approved only if:
  - The first floor of the home does not have any toilet facilities.

Special Considerations:

An **Assessment for Home Modifications** is required to determine the most appropriate and cost-effective service requested.

This assessment must be completed by a specially trained and certified rehabilitation professional. Individuals conducting such assessments may include:

- Licensed Physical, and Occupational Therapists experienced in Home and Community Based services
- Assistive Technology Professionals (ATP), certified by the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA)[1]
- Other certified and licensed professionals with demonstrated experience in Home and Community Based Long Term Care services.

Limitation on Service(s)-

- Each Medicaid recipient is limited to Home Modifications and Special Medical Equipment totaling no more than **$20,000 combined over a five-year period**. Five-year period is determined from the date of delivery of the initial funded service.

- This service is billable under HCPCS Code S5165.

- **Please note this service is available to those recipients on Core Services only.**

[1] An assistive technology professional is a service provider who analyzes the needs of individuals with disabilities, assists in the selection of the appropriate equipment, and trains the consumer on how to properly use the specific equipment.