



Limitations and Special Considerations for Special Medical Equipment

Definition: Special Medical Equipment and supplies to include (a) devices, controls, or appliances, specified in the plan of care, which enable participants to increase their ability to perform activities of daily living; (b) devices, controls, or appliances that enable the participant to perceive, control, or communicate with the environment in which they live; including such other durable and non-durable medical equipment not available under the Medicaid-funded primary and acute care system* that is necessary to address participant functional limitations. Items reimbursed with waiver funds are in addition to any medical equipment and supplies furnished under the Medicaid-funded primary and acute care system* and exclude those items that are not of direct medical or remedial benefit to the participant. All items shall meet applicable standards of manufacture, design and installation. Provision of Special Medical Equipment requires prior approval on an individual basis by the DHS. Items should be of a nature that they are transferable if a recipient moves from their place of residence.

Limitations:

- **Ceiling or Wall Mounted Patient Lifts and Track Systems**
 - Must be documented as the most cost-effective method to meet the recipient's needs.
 - A Patient Lift will be considered for use in one bedroom and/or one bathroom.
 - A Track System is limited to connecting one bedroom and one bathroom.
- **Roll-In or other modified bath/shower unit/Tub Slider System**
 - Item must have a functional expectancy of a minimum of five (5) years.
 - Must be documented as the most cost-effective method to meet the recipient's needs.

*Medical equipment funded under the primary and acute care system includes items such as wheelchairs, prosthetics, and orthotics. These are services that were provided under the authority of the Rhode Island Medicaid State Plan prior to the Global Waiver approval. These items are still available under the Global Waiver and are described at: <http://www.dhs.ri.gov/ForProvidersVendors/ServicesforProviders/ProviderManuals/DME/tabid/459/Default.aspx>

- **Automatic Door Openers**, adapted switches and buttons to operate equipment, communication devices, environmental controls, such as heat, air conditioning and lights may be approved for a recipient who lives alone or is without a caregiver for a major portion of the day.
- All items require Prior Authorization and do not require a Physician's order.
- Repairs or Modifications to equipment purchased under this definition are an allowable expense.
- Items not listed above may be acquired subject to Prior Authorization from DHS. Determinations will be based on the individual's unique circumstances as they apply to the current service definitions, policies and regulations. Please refer to Attachment B, Core and Preventive Home and Community Based Service definitions.

Special Considerations:

An **Assessment for Special Medical Equipment** 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, Occupational or Speech 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 Special Medical Equipment and/or Home Modifications 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 T2029.
- **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.