

# DDP 0208 DD Comprehensive Waiver Service Definitions

**Effective 7/1/13**

## **8. Environmental Modifications/Adaptive Equipment**

### **Environmental Modifications:**

Those physical adaptations to the home, required by the individual's plan of care, which are necessary to ensure the health, welfare and safety of the individual, or which enable the individual to function with greater independence in the home, and without which, the individual would require institutionalization.

Such adaptations may include the installation of ramps and grab-bars, widening of doorways, modification of bathroom facilities, or installation of specialized electric and plumbing systems which are necessary to accommodate the medical equipment and supplies which are necessary for the welfare of the individual.

In addition to the above, environmental modifications services are measures that provide the individual with accessibility and safety in the environment so as to maintain or improve the ability of the individual to remain in community settings and employment.

Environmental modifications may be made to an individual's home or vehicle (wheelchair lift, wheelchair lock down devices, adapted driving controls, etc) for the purpose of increasing independent functioning and safety or to enable family members or other care givers to provide the care required by the individual. An environmental modification provided to an individual must:

- (a) relate specifically to and be primarily for the individual's disability;
- (b) have utility primarily for a person who has a disability;
- (c) not be an item or modification that a family would normally be expected to provide for a non-disabled family member;
- (d) not be in the form of room and board or general maintenance;
- (e) meet the specifications, if applicable, for the modification set by the American national standards institute (ANSI);
- (f) be prior authorized by the DDP if the cost of the project may exceed \$4,000.

Excluded are those adaptations or improvements to the home which are of general utility, and are not of direct medical or remedial benefit to the individual, such as carpeting, roof repair, central air conditioning, etc. Adaptations which add to the total square footage of the home are excluded from this benefit. All services shall be provided in accordance with applicable State or local building codes.

### **Adaptive Equipment:**

Adaptive equipment necessary to obtain and retain employment or to increase independent functioning in completing activities of daily living when such equipment is not available through other sources may be provided. Adaptive equipment as needed to enable family members or other care givers to provide the care needed by the individual.

A comprehensive list is not possible because items may be created (invented) to meet the unique adaptive needs of the individual, for example, an adult-sized "changing table" to enable a care giver to diaper and dress a person who has severe physical limitations; or specially designed switches that an individual with physical limitations can use to accomplish other tasks. Adaptive equipment will conform to the following criteria:

- (a) relate specifically to and be primarily for the individual's disability;
- (b) have utility primarily for a person who has a disability;
- (c) not be an item or modification that a family would normally be expected to provide for a non-disabled family member;
- (d) not be in the form of room and board or general maintenance;
- (e) meet the specifications, if applicable, for the modification set by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI);
- (f) be prior authorized by the DDP if the cost of the project may exceed \$4,000.

Persons choosing to self-direct their services with employer authority may purchase adaptive equipment or environmental modifications in accordance with the service definition, when the specific adaptive equipment or environmental modifications have been prior approved in the plan of care and the annual cost is specified in the individual cost plan. Reimbursement from the FMS is contingent upon all documentation requirements being met.

**Specify applicable (if any) limits on the amount, frequency, or duration of this service:**

All requests over \$4,000 require DDP prior approval.