

	<b>Addictive and Mental Disorders Division</b> Severe and Disabling Mental Illness, Home and Community Based Services Waiver Manual
	<b>Date effective:</b> July 1, 2020  <b>Date revised:</b>
<b>Policy Number:</b> <i>SDMI HCBS 385</i>	<b>Subject:</b> Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies

### Definition

Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies is the provision of items of medical equipment and supplies to a member for the purpose of maintaining and improving the member's ability to reside at home and to function in the community.

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a service animal is defined as a dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. The task(s) performed by the dog must be directly related to the person's disability.

### Determination of Need

- (1) Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies must:
  - (a) be functionally necessary and relate specifically to the member's disability;
  - (b) meet the member's needs for accessibility, independence, health, or safety;
  - (c) be likely to improve the member's functional ability or the ability of a caregiver or service provider to maintain the member in the member's home; and
  - (d) be the most cost-effective item that can meet the needs of the member.
- (2) Members are required to have an initial prescription from a licensed health care provider for Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies.
- (3) For service animals, the member must have an assessment by an occupational therapist or physical therapist.

### Provider Requirements

- (1) Medical equipment and supplies provided must be in accordance with applicable federal, state, or local building codes and requirements.
- (2) Medical equipment and supplies must meet applicable standards of manufacture, design, and installation requirements.

- (3) The provider must be enrolled as a Montana Medicaid provider, have a provider agreement in accordance with ARM 37.85.402.

### **Service Requirements**

- (1) All specialized medical equipment and supplies must have a denial from Medicare and Medicaid, if applicable, prior to waiver service being provided.
- (2) Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies include the following:
  - (a) the provision of service animals;
  - (b) items necessary for life support;
  - (c) ancillary supplies and equipment necessary to the proper functioning of such items;
  - (d) durable and non-durable medical equipment;
  - (e) some over the counter medications and complimentary alternative medications, if recommended in writing by a physician;
  - (f) selecting, designing, fitting, customizing, adapting, maintaining, replacing, or repairing equipment; and
  - (g) training or technical assistance for members, their family, guardian, advocate, or authorized representative.
- (3) Items excluded are those items that are not of direct medical or remedial benefit to the member.
- (4) All items must meet applicable standards of manufacture, design, and installation.
- (5) Medical equipment that requires retrofitting and is essential to a member transitioning from an institutional to a community living arrangement may be purchased and installed prior to admission to the waiver.
- (6) Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies may not duplicate or replace services available under Medicaid state plan.
- (7) Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies may not be provided to members 18-21 years of age who are eligible for Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT).
- (8) Supplies necessary for the performance, health, and maintenance of a service animal are allowable expenses. Allowable expenses include:
  - (a) transportation to and provision of veterinarian care;
  - (b) transportation to and the provision of service animal training;
  - (c) supplies specifically related to the performance of the service animal to meet the specific needs of the member. If not provided by the training organization, these supplies may include leash, harness, backpack, and mobility cart;
  - (d) licensing and registration; and
  - (e) grooming if the member or their informal supports are unable to complete this task.

- (9) Dog food is not an allowable expense for the provision of a service animal.
- (10) Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies will not pay for vehicles, vehicle licenses, or insurance.
- (11) Equipment and Services are limited to a one-time purchase only, with the exception of supplies not covered by Medicaid state plan.
- (12) Certain medical equipment or supplies, for short-term use, may be leased or rented instead of purchase as authorized by the department.

### **Utilization**

- (1) Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies is based on the member's assessed need and are limited to additional services not otherwise covered under Medicaid state plan.
- (2) Any service over \$500 must be prior authorized by the department or their designee.
- (3) The department may require a consultation prior to the purchase of certain equipment and supplies.