

SECTION
SERVICES

SUBJECT
Environmental Accessibility Adaptations

REFERENCES: ARM: 37.40.1485

DEFINITION

Environmental accessibility adaptations are physical adaptations to the Individual's home designed to maintain or improve the Individual's ability to remain at home. Environmental adaptations may include modifications to a personal vehicle if it will allow the Individual to be more independent. The procedure code for this service also includes reimbursement for consultation.

GENERAL SERVICE REQUIREMENT

When providing this service, the case management team must always take into account the nature of the Individual's disease or disability. If there is a reasonable expectation that the Individual's condition will deteriorate, this factor must be taken into account when making the modification. Environmental accessibility adaptations:

1. Must be functionally necessary and relate specifically to the Individual's disability;
2. Must provide for the Individual's accessibility, increased independence, or safety in the home;
3. Must be based on a reasonable expectation that the environmental adaptation will promote the Individual's functional abilities or the ability of a caregiver or service provider to maintain the Individual in the home;
4. Must be the most adequate and cost effective modification that can meet the needs of the Individual;
5. May include the installation of specialized electrical and plumbing systems to accommodate the medical equipment and supplies that are necessary for the welfare of the Individual;
6. Will be limited to one time purchase. The Department, at its discretion may authorize an exception to this limit. Any such exception must be prior authorized;
7. Do not constitute general housing or appliance maintenance, including but not limited to plumbing, heating systems, and leisure items;
8. Do not include the construction of more than one ramp in a residence;

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9. Must meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and American National Standard Institute (ANSI) standards and specifications when feasible; and
10. Jobs in excess of \$2000 must be prior authorized by the Community Program Officer. Jobs in excess of \$4000 must be approved by the Department. (Refer to MHSB 403 & SDMI HCBS 899-22).

Under certain circumstances adaptations may be completed while an individual is still in the hospital or nursing home. In those circumstances, if the Individual is unable to return to his residence, (e.g., death or alternate placement) payment for services provided prior to hospital discharge can be reimbursed by Medicaid. However, the CMT must have completed a Person Centered Plan prior to the commencement of such services for reimbursement to be approved. CPO's will closely monitor environmental modification usage on a case by case basis.

PAYMENT TO LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUALS

Payment for this service may be made to legally responsible individuals, if program criteria are met.