



TITLE: Durable Medical Equipment, Supplies and Services

DOCUMENT: Service Standard

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General health care needs for Regional Center clients are similar to the needs of all members of the community. Ordinarily, parents of minors are expected to provide for necessary medical treatment, durable medical equipment and supplies for their children through private insurance, California Children's Services or other sources of health care and funding available to the general public. In most instances adult clients have their needs for services, equipment and supplies met through Medi-Cal and, in some cases, California Children's Services or other government or private funding resources.

Durable and non-durable medical equipment, supplies and services include, but are not limited to:

- wheelchairs,
- lifts,
- suction machines,
- adaptive utensils for eating,
- assistive technology,
- incontinent supplies for clients five years of age and older, and
- medications.

Medical equipment, supplies and services may be purchased to improve or maintain the individual's health status and allow him to function at home and access his community. The Regional Center may purchase them for clients if the following criteria are met:

- The equipment, service or supply is medically necessary; if medical equipment, it has been prescribed by a licensed physician, occupational therapist, physical therapist or speech pathologist.
- The client is not eligible for Medi-Cal or California Children's Services (CCS) and has no access to private insurance or any other third party payer coverage, or the generic resource does not provide for or has denied the needed service.
- A regional center clinician has reviewed and recommended the purchase.

- If the service, equipment or supply is generally covered by Medi-Cal, the Regional Center will pay no more for it than the amount listed on the Schedule of Maximum Allowances.

Durable medical equipment, supplies and services are purchased for children up to age 3 under the Early Start program if the above criteria are satisfied.

Clients who are not eligible for Medi-Cal or CCS and have no private insurance and who require surgery or other complex treatment will be referred to a medical facility such as a county hospital that has an alternate funding source.

Diapers

For children under the age of 3 years, the purchase of diapers would normally be the responsibility of the parents. The regional center may purchase diapers for children under age 3 when a family can demonstrate a financial need and when doing so will enable the child to remain in the family home. The regional center may supplement the purchase of diapers for individuals age 3 and older when toilet training would normally be achieved, if the lack of bowel or bladder control is a result of the developmental disability and if there is no other source of funding for these supplies. The regional center will fund for generic brand diapers only.