

## Changes to Coverage of Home Accessibility Adaptations ODP Announcement 21-064

### AUDIENCE:

Individuals and Families, Administrative Entities and County Programs, Supports Coordination Organizations, Home Accessibility Adaptation Providers, Organized Health Care Delivery Systems, Agency with Choice Financial Management Services Organizations, Vendor Fiscal/Employer Agent Financial Management Services Organization

### PURPOSE:

The Medical Assistance state plan has been updated to cover home accessibility durable medical equipment used by individuals with a mobility impairment to enter and exit their home or to support activities of daily living. This communication describes how this change impacts the coverage of Home Accessibility Adaptations through the Community Living, Consolidated, Person/Family Directed Support (P/FDS) and Adult Autism Waivers<sup>1</sup> and base-funding.

### DISCUSSION:

On September 21, 2021, Medical Assistance bulletin number [09-21-04](#) was published. This bulletin provides guidance regarding the expanded coverage of home accessibility durable medical equipment through the Medical Assistance state plan for individuals with a mobility impairment. Home accessibility durable medical equipment includes, but is not limited to, the following:

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<sup>1</sup> In the Adult Autism Waiver, this service is named Home Modifications.

- Wheelchair lifts
- Stair glides
- Ceiling lifts; and
- Accessibility ramps. This includes the coverage of portable ramps to enable individuals with a mobility impairment to access vehicles that meet the requirements in Medical Assistance bulletin 09-21-04<sup>2</sup>.

The Medical Assistance state plan will cover installation of home accessibility durable medical equipment by qualified personnel as well as medically necessary repairs to the equipment. Home modifications that are not covered through the Medical Assistance state plan will continue to be covered by the Waivers and can be covered by base-funding as described below.

The Medical Assistance state plan will not cover home accessibility durable medical equipment in homes owned and operated by providers such as homes where Residential Habilitation services are provided or public or private Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with an Intellectual Disability.

#### *How This Change Impacts ODP's Programs*

Everyone enrolled in a Waiver must be eligible for items and services covered through the Medical Assistance state plan (either through Fee For Service or a physical health managed care organization.) For this reason, items and services covered by the Medical Assistance state plan cannot be covered by Waivers (42 CFR §433 Subpart D.)

While it is not a requirement that individuals registered with a County Program be eligible for items and services covered through the Medical Assistance state plan, many

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<sup>2</sup> Individuals with a mobility impairment who request a portable ramp to access their vehicle through Vehicle Accessibility Adaptations in the Waivers or base-funding must request the ramp through the Medical Assistance state plan.

individuals are eligible for items and services covered through the Medical Assistance state plan. The Mental Health and Intellectual Disability Act of 1966 requires the Department of Human Services and County Programs to assure maximum utilization of services which may be of benefit to individuals, including the maximum utilization of items and services covered through the Medical Assistance state plan.

For this reason, the Waivers and base-funding can no longer cover the purchase, maintenance, installation, or repairs of home accessibility durable medical equipment for individuals with a mobility impairment which are necessary to enter and exit the home or to support activities of daily living as described in Medical Assistance bulletin 09-21-04 even if they are denied through the Medical Assistance state plan.

**The Home Accessibility Adaptation service in the Waivers and base-funding can cover the following for individuals with a mobility impairment which are necessary to enter and exit the home or to support activities of daily living that are not covered through the Medical Assistance state plan:**

- Extended warranties for the home accessibility durable medical equipment covered through the Medical Assistance state plan.
- Repairs of the home, including repairs caused by the installation, use or removal of the medical equipment or appliance. The installation of the medical equipment or appliance is covered through the Medical Assistance state plan.
- Any of the following which are required for the Medical Assistance state plan to install home accessibility durable medical equipment:
  - Adding internal supports such that the support requires access to the area behind a wall or ceiling or underneath the floor.
  - Constructing retaining walls or footers for a retaining wall.
  - Modification to an existing deck.

- Widening a doorway.
- Upgrading the electrical system.
- Demolition of drywall or flooring.

There have been no changes to Home Accessibility Adaptations covered through the Waivers and base-funding that are not necessary for individuals to enter or exit the home or to support mobility-related activities of daily living. All Home Accessibility Adaptations covered through the Waivers are still subject to the limit of \$20,000 per individual during a 10-year period.

This guidance is effective immediately. Any home accessibility adaptation now covered through the Medical Assistance state plan where the bid(s) required through the Waivers<sup>3</sup> were obtained prior to the publication date of this communication (as evidenced by the date documented on the bid) may be reimbursed through the Waivers or base-funding. All other home accessibility durable medical equipment covered by the Medical Assistance state plan per bulletin 09-21-04 must be requested through Medical Assistance and cannot be reimbursed through the Waivers or base-funding. ODP is working on amendments to the Waivers to align with the requirements in this communication.

ODP encourages the maintenance of any organizational structures that have been set up to assist individuals, families, and vendors understand and navigate the coverage of Home Accessibility Adaptations through the Waivers or base-funding. Increased coordination may need to occur for home accessibility durable medical equipment covered through the Medical Assistance state plan. For example, Home Accessibility Adaptations through the Waivers or base-funding may need to occur to enable the

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<sup>3</sup> The Adult Autism Waiver requires an independent evaluation instead of bids. The date of the independent evaluation must be prior to the publication date of this communication.

installation of home accessibility durable medical equipment that will be covered through the Medical Assistance state plan. Individuals, families, and vendors may also need increased assistance to ensure that the procedures for requesting home accessibility durable medical equipment through the Medical Assistance state plan are followed.

**CONTACT:**

Please direct any questions about this announcement to your respective regional Office of Developmental Programs.