

## Durable medical equipment

Healthy Blue allows reimbursement for durable medical equipment (DME) under specific guidelines. Healthy Blue bases reimbursement on the rental price up to the maximum allowed of a particular DME item. Healthy Blue considers items purchased once the purchase price has been met. (Note: All purchased DME must be new and not used.) The reimbursement limit for rented DME is 10 months except for certain DME outlined in this update.

### What does this mean to me?

The reimbursement limit for DME is 10 months excluding prosthetics, orthotics, disposable medical supplies (DMS) and certain ventilator codes. Once the limit is met, Healthy Blue will deny claims submitted for the rental of the item. When applicable, the provider must obtain prior authorization for the DME rental.

### What is DME?

Healthy Blue considers DME to be items that:

- Are primarily and customarily used for a medical purpose rather than convenience or comfort.
- Can withstand repeated use.
- Provide, in general, no help to a person without illness or injury.
- Are appropriate for home use.
- Are prescribed by a licensed physician or practitioner.

All requirements in this definition must be met before an item can be considered DME.

### Which DME items are excluded from the 10-month rental limit?

Our policy for rent to purchase on most items is 10 continuous or consecutive months. The 10-month DME rental limit excludes:

- Prosthetics.
- Orthotics.
- DMS.
- Ventilator code E0465 (home ventilator of any type that is used with an invasive interface).
- Ventilator code E0466 (home ventilator of any type that is used for a noninvasive interface).

### What is excluded from Healthy Blue reimbursement?

- Provision of DME that exceeds the benefit limit
- Repair or replacement of DME because of abuse or neglect
- Repair or replacement of DME during the warranty period
- Enhancements to or upgrades of DME for the comfort and convenience of members or caregivers
- Aesthetic appearance of DME for the preference of members or caregivers
- DME considered experimental or investigational

The information in this bulletin may be an update or change to your provider manual. Find the most current manual at:

**<https://providers.healthybluelouisiana.com>**

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WEBPBLA-0034-17 August 2017

- Purchase or rental of common household items that are not medically indicated
- DME provided by a skilled nursing facility when the equipment is part of the facility per diem and is not separately reimbursable (unless otherwise stated by a provider contract)
- Televisions, telephones, videocassette recorders, and other musical or entertainment devices

### **Training equipment or self-help equipment**

- Van lifts and wheelchair lifts
- Wheelchair ramps
- Clinically unproven equipment
- Dentures
- Disposable supplies customarily provided as part of a nursing or personal care service or a medical diagnostic or monitoring procedure
- Electric lifts (Manual lifts are covered.)
- Emergency and nonemergency alert devices
- Environmental modifications (for example, home, bathroom, ramps)
- Equipment designed for use by a physician or by trained medical personnel
- Experimental equipment
- Facilitated communications
- Furniture and other items that serve no medical purpose
- Hand-held showers
- Items used for cosmetic purposes
- Physical fitness equipment
- Precautionary equipment (for example, power generators)
- Rehabilitation equipment
- Delivery of or delivery mileage for medical supplies
- Routine and first aid items
- Safety alarms and alert systems and buttons
- Scooters
- Seat lifts and recliner lifts
- Standard car seats

### **What do I do if DME is lost, stolen or destroyed?**

If equipment is lost, stolen or destroyed, the provider must obtain, in a timely manner, a completed police or insurance report describing the DME that was stolen or destroyed. The provider must submit a request for authorization of replacement equipment.

### **What if I need assistance?**

If you have questions about this communication, received this fax in error or need assistance with any other item, call Provider Services at **1-844-521-6942**.