Benefits for Home Health Bath and Bathroom Equipment To Change

Effective for dates of service on or after April 1, 2009, a toilet seat lift mechanism (procedure code J-E0172) is a benefit of Texas Medicaid when prior authorized.

Procedure code J-E0172 may be prior authorized for clients who meet all of the following criteria:

- The client must have severe arthritis of the hip or knee or have a severe neuromuscular disease.
- The toilet seat lift mechanism must be a part of the physician’s course of treatment and be prescribed to correct or ameliorate the client’s condition.
- Once standing, the client must have the ability to ambulate.
- The client must be completely incapable of standing up from a regular armchair or any chair in the client’s home.

The client’s difficulty or incapability of getting up from a chair is not sufficient justification for a toilet seat lift mechanism. Almost all clients who are capable of ambulating can get out of an ordinary chair if the seat height is appropriate and the chair has arms.

The submitted documentation must include an assessment completed by a physician, physical therapist, or occupational therapist. The assessment must include the following:

- A description of the client’s current level of function without the device.
- An explanation why a non-mechanical toilet elevation device, such as toilet rails, or elevated toilet seat, will not meet the client’s needs.
- Documentation identifying how the toilet seat lift mechanism will improve the client’s function.
- A list of the mobility-related activities of daily living the client will be able to perform with the toilet seat lift mechanism that the client is unable to perform without the toilet seat lift mechanism and a description of how this will increase the client’s independence.
- The client’s goals for use of the toilet seat lift mechanism.

Supporting documentation must be kept in the client’s record that all appropriate therapeutic modalities (such as medication or physical therapy) have been tried and that they failed to enable the client to transfer from a chair to a standing position.

Prior authorization will be given for either mechanical or powered toilet-assist devices, not for both. If a client already owns one or more mechanical toilet-assist devices, a powered toilet seat lift mechanism will not be prior authorized unless there has been a documented change in the client’s condition such that the client can no longer use the mechanical equipment.

Toilet seat lift mechanisms are limited to those types that operate smoothly, can be controlled by the client, and effectively assist a client in standing up and sitting down without other assistance. A toilet seat lift operated by a spring release mechanism that jolts the client from a seated to a standing position is not a benefit of Texas Medicaid. Toilet seat lift mechanisms are limited to one every five years.

The Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Certification and Receipt Form is required and must be completed before reimbursement can be made for any DME delivered to a client. The certification form must include the name of the item, the date the client received the DME, and the signatures of the provider and the client or primary caregiver.
The DME Certification and Receipt Form must be submitted for DME claims and appeals when:

- A single item meets or exceeds a billed amount of $2,500.00.
- Multiple items submitted on the same date of service meet or exceed a total billed amount of $2,500.00.

Claims submitted without the DME Certification and Receipt Form will be denied.

Clients who receive DME meeting or exceeding a total billed amount of $2,500.00 may be contacted to verify receipt of the equipment. If receipt of the equipment cannot be verified, the claim payment is eligible for recoupment.

In addition, the following procedure codes may no longer be considered for reimbursement in any place of service when submitted by a custom DME provider:

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For more information, call the TMHP Contact Center at 1-800-925-9126.