

March 24, 2008

Montana Healthcare Programs Notice

Durable Medical Equipment Providers

New Rules Effective January 1, 2008

On January 1, 2008, language was added to 37.86.1801 to allow Montana Medicaid to reimburse providers for durable medical equipment used in the workplace or in a school setting. This language allows our contractor to prior authorize equipment that is used outside the home. It allows for tie downs, head rests, laterals and flat free inserts if the client goes to work or attends school. The rule change also allows Montana Medicaid to pay for custom molded wheelchair positioning equipment for nursing home residents. The nursing home must have available a wheel chair for the provider to insert the custom equipment.

The new rule 37.86.1802 changes the way prescriptions/orders can be transmitted. The prescription/order must indicate the diagnosis, the medical necessity, quantity and the length of need. The rule refers providers to the Medicare guidelines. Prescriptions can now be oral, faxed or hard copy. For items that are dispensed based on a verbal order, the supplier must obtain a written order that meets the requirements in Chapter 3 of the Medicare Supplier Manual. The change also updates the rule to refer to current Medicare rules and regulations in the Region D Supplier manual (including the most current local coverage determinations (LCDs)). Chapters 3 and 4 of the Medicare Manual outline the documentation requirements for suppliers.

Changes to rule 37.86.1806 adopt Medicare rules in the capped rental program. It mirrors the Medicare 13-month limit and allows reimbursement up to the Medicare allowable. It also allows providers to bill supplies as allowed by Medicare. This change refers to Chapter 5 of the more current Medicare Supplier manual.

Changes to the fees include adopting Medicare fees for wheel chairs and accessories and eliminating the price cluster language. All fees now are either Medicare fees or "by report."

Other changes include:

- Non-coverage of backup equipment and non-coverage of items included in the nursing home per diem.
- A daily rental for phototherapy (bilirubin) lights.

Contact Information

For Medicare criteria, visit the CMS website:

<http://www.noridianmedicare.com>

For claims questions or additional information, contact Fran O'Hara, DME Program Officer, at (406) 444-5296 or Provider Relations:

Provider Relations toll-free in- and out-of-state: 1-800-624-3958
Helena: (406) 442-1837
E-mail: MTPRHelpdesk@ACS-inc.com

Visit the Provider Information website:
<http://www.mtmedicaid.org>