



OPERATIONAL MEMO

TITLE:	GUIDANCE ON INCONTINENCE ITEMS AVAILABLE THROUGH EARLY PERIODIC SCREENING, DIAGNOSTIC, AND TREATMENT (EPSDT), DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT (DME), OR HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES (HCBS) WAIVERS
SUPERSEDES NUMBER:	N/A
EFFECTIVE DATE:	JANUARY 30, 2020
DIVISION AND OFFICE:	BENEFITS AND SERVICES DIVISION, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY LIVING
PROGRAM AREA:	DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT (DME), EARLY PERIODIC SCREENING, DIAGNOSTIC, AND TESTING (EPSDT), HCBS CHILDREN'S EXTENSIVE SUPPORT (CES) WAIVER, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (DD) WAIVER, AND SUPPORTED LIVING SERVICES (SLS) WAIVER
KEY WORDS:	HCBS, CES, SLS, DD, DME, EPSDT, WIPES, DIAPERS, INCONTINENCE
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Purpose and Audience:

The purpose of this Operational Memo is to inform case management agencies (CMAs), Durable Medical Equipment (DME) providers, and other stakeholders of operational instructions for the Department of Health Care Policy & Financing's (Department) requirements for the approval of wipes, diapers, and other incontinence items available as an Early Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) exception to DME regulations before accessing those items under any benefit under a Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver for an individual under age 21.

Background:

In the course of engagement with various stakeholder groups and individuals, DME providers, Community Centered Boards (CCBs), and other interested parties additional guidance was requested on the process to access wipes, diapers, and other incontinence items for individuals under the age of 21.

Information:

DME providers and case managers at CMAs must follow the direction in this Operational Memo in addition to the requirements found in regulation at [10 CCR 2505-10 8.590](#).

EPSDT and DME Requirements

EPSDT requires states to provide medically necessary services regardless of whether the service is covered by that state. This includes diapers, wipes, and other incontinence items that are not covered under the DME benefit. Items available through a state plan benefit such as DME, or through an EPSDT exception, must be accessed through that method before seeking HCBS benefit coverage.

More information on how to file for any EPSDT exception request is available here: <http://coloradopar.com/Portals/2/JAN%202017/EPSDT%20Services.pdf>

HCBS Case Management Requirements

Diapers, wipes, and other incontinence items are only available through the Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies (SMES) benefit of the Children's Extensive Supports (CES), Developmental Disabilities (DD), and Supported Living Services (SLS) waivers when not otherwise available through another funding source. These funding sources include, but are not limited to:

- State plan benefits such as DME,
- Coverage through an EPSDT exception for people under age 21,
- Grant funding, and
- Private insurance coverage.

Case managers seeking prior authorization for these items under an HCBS waiver should document how the items are not otherwise available. For a person over the age of 21, a DME denial with final agency decision should be included before adding the

items in the person's service plan. For a person under the age of 21, a DME denial using the EPSDT exception request with final agency decision should be included.

In some situations, the item needed may not be available from a DME supplier that serves this person's geographic area. If an equivalent or similar product is available, the case manager must document how that product does not meet the person's need before adding the items to the person's service plan. If no similar product is available, the case manager must document that at least three DME suppliers have been contacted who are unable to provide the items needed.

Following these process requirements helps conserve HCBS funds for other services, as well as allowing medically necessary items for individuals not eligible for an HCBS waiver. Failure to follow these process requirements may result in recoupment of payment.

Case managers are encouraged to involve the Department by contacting Diane Byrne (contact information below) and other relevant parties in the process of requesting funding as early as possible. This is important for all requests, and especially so for CES waiver members within the last year of eligibility to ensure benefits may be accessed.

Attachment(s):

None

Department Contacts:

EPSDT: Gina Robinson, Gina.Robinson@state.co.us

DME: Alexandra Koloskus, Alexandra.Koloskus@state.co.us

HCBS benefits: Diane Byrne, Diane.Byrne@state.co.us