

October 7, 2015

<Provider Name>  
<Provider Address1>  
<Provider Address2>  
<Provider City> <state> <zipcode5-zip4>

Dear Provider:

**RE: Medicaid Coverage of Power Wheelchairs and Custom Wheelchair Seating for Medicaid Beneficiaries Residing in Nursing Facilities**

The purpose of this letter is to clarify Medicaid policy regarding power wheelchairs or manual wheelchairs with custom wheelchair seating for beneficiaries residing in nursing facilities. This letter does not represent a change to policy but rather an explanation of the process for obtaining medically necessary power wheelchairs or manual wheelchairs with custom seating for nursing facility beneficiaries. The Medical Services Administration is committed to ensuring beneficiaries can obtain medically necessary Durable Medical Equipment (DME), including power wheelchairs and custom wheelchair seating.

Most DME items are considered standard care items and are included in the nursing facility daily care rate (called the "per diem"). Per diem items cannot be billed separately to Medicaid. Examples of nursing facility per diem items include hospital beds, standard manual wheelchairs, bandages, diabetic testing supplies, etc. Durable medical equipment not considered standard care and excluded from the per diem may be provided by the DME provider. Examples of items excluded from the nursing facility per diem are power wheelchairs and manual wheelchairs with custom wheelchair seating.

Power wheelchairs and manual wheelchairs with custom wheelchair seating require prior authorization (PA). When the nursing facility determines a beneficiary has medical need for these items, the nursing facility must work with a DME provider to submit a PA request. Part of the PA process requires specific documentation and evaluation of the beneficiary's medical/functional needs. The nursing facility is responsible for the medical documentation, for conducting an evaluation, and completing the MSA-1656 and appropriate addendum(s). The DME provider is responsible for gathering the medical documentation, the MSA-1656 evaluation form, the appropriate addendum(s) from the nursing facility and for filling out the MSA 1653-D. The DME provider is also responsible for recommending the most medically and economically appropriate equipment that meets the beneficiary's medical/functional needs and for submitting the PA request to Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS).

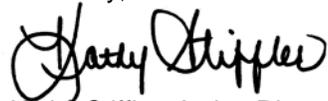
Policy and reference tools are posted on the MDHHS website for provider reference. Providers should review the Medicaid Provider Manual, specifically the Nursing Facility Chapter and Medical Supplier Chapter, as well as the Medical Supplier webpage for details regarding items included in the Nursing Facility Per Diem list and the "Medicaid Mobility for Residents" presentation for guidance on the prior authorization process, documentation and evaluation requirements. The Medicaid Provider Manual is available on the MDHHS website at [www.michigan.gov/medicaidproviders](http://www.michigan.gov/medicaidproviders) >> Policy and Forms >> Medicaid Provider Manual. The Nursing Facility Per Diem list and the "Medicaid Mobility for Residents" presentation can be accessed on the MDHHS website at [www.michigan.gov/medicaidproviders](http://www.michigan.gov/medicaidproviders) >> Billing and Reimbursement >> Provider Specific Information >> Medical Supplier. Scroll down the page to either the Nursing Facility Per Diem list and/or the presentation "Medicaid Mobility for Residents."

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Nursing facility and DME providers with further policy and billing questions may contact Provider Support at 800-292-2550. Questions regarding completion of the MSA-1656 form and PA may be directed to the Program Review Division at 800-622-0276.

To assist nursing facility beneficiaries through the PA process, contact the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman at 866-485-9393.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy Stiffler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathy Stiffler, Acting Director  
Medical Services Administration