



July 16, 2021

RE: Important Reminders for Seating Assessment and Fittings for Manual and Power Custom Wheelchairs

Assessments

A Qualified Rehabilitation Professional (QRP) directly employed or contracted by the Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Provider must be present at and participate in all seating assessments, including those provided by a physician and should be conducted in person and not be conducted via telehealth.

Upon completion of the seating assessment, the QRP must attest to participation in the assessment by signing the TMHP Wheelchair/Scooter/Stroller Seating Assessment Form. This form must be submitted with all *requests and claims* for wheeled mobility systems, assessments, and fittings.

A seating assessment performed by an occupational therapist, physical therapist, or a physician, with the participation of a QRP, does not require prior authorization. However, any wheelchair management for treatment, wheelchair training, and/or fitting by does require prior authorization. See CPT 97542 Code Summary below for details.

A seating assessment performed by a physician is considered part of the physician evaluation and management service. If the seating assessment is completed by a physician, reimbursement is considered part of the physician's office visit and will not be reimbursed separately.

Fitting of Custom Wheeled Mobility Systems

The fitting of a wheeled mobility system must be:

- Performed by the **same** QRP that was present for, and participated in, the seating assessment of the client
- Completed prior to submitting a claim for reimbursement of a wheeled mobility system

Forms to be submitted with the claim for fittings:

- Completed Seating Assessment form with appropriate signatures
- TMHP DME Certification and Receipt form or Delivery slip/invoice signed and dated by Member or caregiver
- Dated carrier tracking document that includes the shipping date and delivery date must be printed from the carrier's website as confirmation.
 - The carrier tracking document must be attached to the delivery slip or corresponding invoice

When the QRP that participated in the assessment of the client is not available to conduct the fitting of the wheeled mobility system, the DME Equipment Provider must maintain copy of the following documentation in the Member's medical record and be available to the health plan upon request:

- A letter written on the DME Provider's letterhead, signed and dated by a representative of the DME Provider other than the new QRP.
- Documentation explaining why the original QRP could not conduct the fitting. Examples may include, but are not limited to, documentation that the QRP:
 - Is no longer associated with the DME provider requesting the wheeled mobility system
 - Is on an extended leave* from the DME provider requesting the wheeled mobility system
 - The name, TPI, and NPI of the original QRP who performed the initial assessment, and the date the assessment was completed
 - The name, TPI, and NPI of the QRP who will be performing the fitting

CPT 97542 Code Summary for Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, and QRP

Seating Assessment		
Provider	Modifier	Prior Authorization Required
Physical Therapist	GP, UC	No
Occupational Therapist	GO, UC	No
QRP	U1	Yes
Fitting		
Service	Modifier	Prior Authorization Required
Physical Therapist	GP	Yes
Occupational Therapist	GO	Yes
QRP	U2	Yes

For more information refer to Durable Medical Equipment, Medical Supplies, and Nutritional Products Handbook located in the Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual on TMHP.com.

Providers may contact Cook Children's Health Plan Provider Support Services at 888-243-3312 or email CCHPPProviderRelations@cookchildrens.org for questions related to this guidance.

Sincerely,

Cook Children's Health Plan

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