1 General Information

The information in this handbook is intended for Texas Medicaid durable medical equipment (DME) supplier and medical supply company providers. This handbook provides information about the Texas Medicaid benefits, policies, and procedures that are applicable to these providers.

This handbook contains information about Texas Medicaid fee-for-service benefits. For information about managed care benefits, refer to the Texas Medicaid Managed Care Handbook.

Managed care carve-out services are administered as fee-for-service benefits. A list of all carve-out services is available in section 8, "Carve-Out Services" in the *Medicaid Managed Care Handbook* (*Vol. 2, Provider Handbooks*).

All providers are required to report suspected child abuse or neglect as outlined in subsection 1.7.1.2, "Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect" in "Section 1: Provider Enrollment and Responsibilities" (*Vol. 1, General Information*).

Important: *All providers are required to read and comply with "Section 1: Provider Enrollment and Responsibilities" (Vol. 1, General Information). In addition to required compliance with all requirements specific to Texas Medicaid, it is a violation of Texas Medicaid rules when a provider fails to provide health-care services or items to Medicaid clients in accordance with accepted medical community standards and standards that govern occupations, as explained in 1 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §371.1659. Accordingly, in addition to being subject to sanctions for failure to comply with the requirements that are specific to Texas Medicaid, providers can also be subject to Texas Medicaid sanctions for failure, at all times, to deliver health-care items and services to Medicaid clients in full accordance with all applicable licensure and certification requirements including, without limitation, those related to documentation and record maintenance.*

Refer to: "Section 1: Provider Enrollment and Responsibilities" (*Vol. 1, General Information*) for more information about enrollment procedures.

1.1 Payment Window Reimbursement Guidelines for Services Preceding an Inpatient Admission

According to the three-day and one-day payment window reimbursement guidelines, most professional and outpatient diagnostic and nondiagnostic services that are rendered within the designated timeframe of an inpatient hospital stay, and are related to the inpatient hospital admission, will not be reimbursed separately from the inpatient hospital stay if the services are rendered by the hospital or an entity that is wholly owned or operated by the hospital.

These reimbursement guidelines do not apply in the following circumstances:

- The professional services are rendered in the inpatient hospital setting.
- The hospital and the physician office or other entity are both owned by a third party, such as a health system.
- The hospital is not the sole or 100-percent owner of the entity.

Refer to: Subsection 3.7.4.17, "Payment Window Reimbursement Guidelines" in the *Inpatient and Outpatient Hospital Services Handbook* (*Vol. 2, Provider Handbooks*) for additional information about the payment window reimbursement guidelines.

2 Texas Medicaid (Title XIX) Home Health Services

2.1 Enrollment

All DME providers must be Medicare-certified before applying for enrollment in Texas Medicaid.

Providers that render custom DME wheeled mobility systems to Texas Medicaid clients must enroll in Texas Medicaid as a specialized/custom wheeled mobility group provider and must have at least one qualified rehabilitation professional (QRP) performing provider.

Certified QRP providers must enroll in Texas Medicaid as performing providers under DME provider groups.

To enroll in Texas Medicaid as a QRP performing provider, individual professionals must be certified by the National Registry of Rehabilitation Technology Suppliers (NRRTS) or Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA) and must enroll as a performing provider under a Specialized /Custom Wheeled Mobility group.

Providers can use the online Provider Enrollment and Management System (PEMS) tool to enroll electronically through the TMHP website at www.tmhp.com.

Providers may request prior authorization for home health services by contacting:

Texas Medicaid & Healthcare Partnership
Home Health Services
PO Box 202977
Austin, TX 78720-2977
1-800-925-8957
Fax: 1-512-514-4209

2.1.1 Pending Agency Certification

DME providers that submit claims before the enrollment process is complete or without prior authorization for services issued by the TMHP Home Health Services Prior Authorization Department will not be reimbursed. The effective date of enrollment is the date on which all Medicaid provider enrollment forms have been received and approved by TMHP.

Upon the receipt of notice of Medicaid enrollment, the supplier must contact the TMHP Home Health Services Prior Authorization Department before rendering to a Medicaid client, services that require a prior authorization number. Prior authorization cannot be issued before Medicaid enrollment has been completed. Regular prior authorization procedures are followed at that time.

Providers must not submit home health services claims for payment until they have received their Medicaid certification and a prior authorization number has been assigned.

Refer to: Subsection 2.1.1, "Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA)" in the *Radiology and Laboratory Services Handbook* (*Vol. 2, Provider Handbooks*).

2.1.2 Surety Bond Requirements

All newly enrolling and re-enrolling durable medical equipment (DME) providers must, as a condition of enrollment and continued participation into Texas Medicaid, obtain a surety bond that complies with Title 1, Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §352.15.

Important: *Surety bonds obtained for the purpose of accreditation in the Medicare program, which lists the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) as obligee, do not fulfill the surety bond requirement for Texas Medicaid.*

The surety bond submitted to Texas Medicaid must meet the following requirements:

- A bond in an amount of no less than $50,000 must be provided for each enrolled location.

  Note: *Only one surety bond is required if the provider has multiple Medicaid DME provider numbers related to the same location. For example, if the provider has an enrollment record for DME and an enrollment record for Specialized Custom Wheeled Mobility all for the same practice location, only one surety bond is required.*

- The bond must be submitted on the State of Texas Medicaid Provider Surety Bond Form. No other form will be accepted. The use of this form designates the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) as the sole obligee of the bond. Instructions are included with the form.
- The bond must be issued for a term of 12 months. Bonds for longer or shorter terms are not acceptable.
- The bond must be in effect on the date that the provider enrollment application is submitted to TMHP for consideration. The effective date stated on the bond must be:
  - No later than the date that the provider enrollment application is submitted.
  - No earlier than 12 months before the date that the provider enrollment application is submitted.
- The bond must be a continuous bond. A continuous bond remains in full force and effect from term to term unless the bond is canceled.

Important: *An annual bond that specifies effective and expiration dates for the bond, is not acceptable.*

At the time of enrollment or re-enrollment, providers must submit the surety bond form with original signatures and a copy of the Power of Attorney document from the surety company that issued the bond.

Note: *Surety companies may refer to Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) file #9212562912 or TDI link #132456 when filing the bond.*

2.1.2.1 Proof of Continuation

DME providers must maintain a current surety bond to continue participation in Texas Medicaid. Each year, providers must submit documentation that shows proof of continuation of the bond for a new 12-month term. The document may be submitted on the surety bond company's form and must include the following components:

- Bond number
- Principal's name, address, and Tax ID or National Provider Identifier (NPI)
- Surety's company name and address
- Date of the original bond
- New "good through" date

To avoid losing Medicaid enrollment status, providers must submit the proof of continuation to the TMHP Provider Enrollment before the expiration date of the bond that is currently on file. The completed proof of continuation document must include the original signatures of the authorized corporate representative of the DME provider (principal), and the attorney-in-fact of the surety company. Providers may submit a copy of the proof of continuation (i.e., scan, FAX, photocopy) pending the submission of the original document.

Submission Information

The surety bond can be submitted using the Provider Enrollment and Management System (PEMS).

2.2 Services, Benefits, Limitations and Prior Authorization

Home health services include home health skilled nursing (SN), home health aide (HHA), physical therapy (PT) and occupational therapy (OT) services; DME; and expendable medical supplies that are provided to eligible Medicaid clients at their place of residence.

Refer to: The *Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Speech Therapy Services Handbook* (*Vol. 2, Provider Handbooks*) for more information about therapy services.

The *Home Health Nursing and Private Duty Nursing Services Handbook* (*Vol. 2, Provider Handbooks*) for more information about nursing services.

2.2.1 Home Health Services

The benefit period for home health professional services is up to 60 days with a current plan of care (POC). For all DME and medical supplies with or without prior authorization requirements, providers must complete a Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Form except as outlined in subsection 2.2.12, "Diabetic Equipment and Supplies" in this handbook. In chronic and stable situations, the Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Form is valid for up to, but no more than, 6 months from the date of the physician's signature on the form, unless otherwise noted in this handbook. If necessary, DME and supplies that are ordered on a Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Form may be prior authorized for up to 6 months with medical necessity determination. Because Medicaid clients have a one-month eligibility period, providers must bill for a one month supply at a time, even though prior authorization may be granted for up to 6 months. This extended prior authorization period begins on the date that clients receive their first prior-authorized home health service. Texas Medicaid allows additional DME or supplies that have been determined to be medically necessary and have been prior authorized by TMHP Home Health Services Prior Authorization Department. Durable medical equipment providers must retain all orders; copies of completed, signed, and dated Title XIX forms; delivery slips; and corresponding invoices for all supplies provided to a client. Durable medical equipment providers must disclose these records to HHSC or its designee on request. These records and claims must be retained for a minimum of five years from the date of service (DOS) or until audit questions, appeals, hearings, investigations, or court cases are resolved. Use of these services is subject to retrospective review.

2.2.1.1 Client Eligibility

Home health clients do not have to be homebound to qualify for services.

To qualify for home health services, the Medicaid client must be eligible on the DOS and must:

- Have a medical need for home health professional services, DME, or supplies that is documented in the client's POC and considered a benefit under home health services.
- Receive services that meet the client's existing medical needs and can be safely provided in the client's home.
- Receive prior authorization from TMHP for most home health professional services, DME, and medical supplies.

Unless otherwise noted in this handbook, certain DME/supplies may be obtained without prior authorization. Durable medical equipment providers must retain a copy of the completed Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Form that has been reviewed, signed, and dated by the treating physician for these clients.

Refer to: Subsection A.12.3, "Automated Inquiry System (AIS)" in "Appendix A: State, Federal, and TMHP Contact Information" (*Vol. 1, General Information*).

"Section 6: Claims Filing" (*Vol. 1, General Information*) for more information on clients who are 20 years of age and younger.

2.2.1.2 Prior Authorization Requests for Clients with Retroactive Eligibility

Retroactive eligibility occurs when the effective date of a client's Medicaid coverage is before the date on which the client's Medicaid eligibility is added to TMHP's eligibility file, which is called the "add date."

For clients with retroactive eligibility, prior authorization requests must be submitted after the client's add date and before a claim is submitted to TMHP.

For services provided to fee-for-service Medicaid clients during the client's retroactive eligibility period (i.e., the period from the effective date to the add date), prior authorization must be obtained within 95 days of the client's add date and before a claim for those services is submitted to TMHP. For services provided on or after the client's add date, the provider must obtain prior authorization within three business days of the date of service.

The provider is responsible and strongly encouraged to verify client eligibility frequently. Eligibility can be verified electronically by checking:

- TexMedConnect.
- The Medicaid Client Portal for Providers.

Additionally, providers can verify eligibility through AIS. To use the AIS, call the TMHP Contact Center at 800-925-9126 and select option 1.

If services are discontinued before the client's add date, the provider must still obtain prior authorization within 95 days of the add date to be able to submit claims.

Refer to: "Section 4: Client Eligibility" (*Vol. 1, General Information*).

2.2.1.3 Prior Authorization

Prior authorization must be obtained for some supplies and most DME from TMHP within three business days of the DOS. Although durable medical equipment providers may supply some DME and medical supplies to a client without prior authorization, they must still retain a copy of the Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Form that has Section B completed, signed, and dated by the client's attending physician, unless otherwise noted in this handbook.

The following prior authorization requests can be submitted on the TMHP website at www.tmhp.com:

- External Insulin Pump
- Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Form
- Home Health Services POC
- Statement for Initial Wound Therapy System In-Home Use
- Statement for Recertification of Wound Therapy System In-Home Use
- Wheelchair/Scooter/Stroller Seating Assessment Form (CCP/Home Health Services) (Attachments will be sent separately due to size and detailed information)

Refer to: Subsection 5.5.1, "Prior Authorization Requests Through the TMHP Website" in "Section 5: Fee-for-Service Prior Authorizations" (*Vol. 1, General Information*) for more information, including mandatory documentation requirements.

If a client's primary coverage is private insurance and Medicaid is secondary, prior authorization is required for Medicaid reimbursement. If the primary coverage is Medicare, Medicare approves the service, and Medicaid is secondary, prior authorization is not required. TMHP will pay only the coinsurance or deductible according to current payment guidelines. If Medicare denied the service, then Medicaid prior authorization is required. TMHP must receive a prior authorization request within 30 days of the date of Medicare's final disposition. The Medicare Remittance Advice Notice (MRAN) containing Medicare's final disposition must accompany the prior authorization request. If the service is a Medicaid-only service, prior authorization is required within three business days of the DOS.

The provider must contact the TMHP Home Health Services Prior Authorization Department within three business days of the DOS to obtain prior authorization for DME and medical supplies.

If inadequate or incomplete information is provided or medical necessity is lacking, the provider will be asked to furnish any required or additional documentation so that a decision about the request can be made. Because the documentation must often be obtained from the client's physician, providers have two weeks to submit the requested documentation. If the additional documentation is received within the two-week period, prior authorization can be considered for the original date of contact. If the additional documentation is received more than two weeks after the request for the documentation, prior authorization is not considered before the date on which the additional documentation is received. It is the DME supplier's responsibility to contact the physician to obtain the requested additional documentation. The physician must maintain documentation of medical necessity in the client's record.

TMHP Home Health Services toll-free number is 1-800-925-8957.

Refer to: Subsection 2.2.2.2, "Prior Authorization" in this handbook for DME prior authorization information.

Subsection 2.3.1, "Medicaid Relationship to Medicare" in this handbook.

Client eligibility for Medicaid is for one month at a time. Providers should verify their client's eligibility every month. Prior authorization does not guarantee payment.

2.2.2 Durable Medical Equipment (DME) and Supplies

Texas Medicaid defines DME as:

Medical equipment or appliances that are manufactured to withstand repeated use, ordered by a physician for use in the home, and required to correct or ameliorate a client's disability, condition, or illness.

Since there is no single authority, such as a federal agency, that confers the official status of "DME" on any device or product, HHSC retains the right to make such determinations with regard to Texas Medicaid DME benefits.

Requested DME may be a benefit when it meets the Medicaid definition of DME. The majority of DME and expendable supplies are covered home health services. If a service cannot be provided for a client who is 20 years of age or younger through home health services, these services may be covered through CCP if they are determined to be medically necessary.

To be reimbursed as a home health benefit:

- The client must be eligible for home health benefits.
- The criteria listed for the requested equipment or supply must be met.
- The requested equipment or supply must be medically necessary, and Federal Financial Participation (FFP) must be available.
- The client's health status would be compromised without the requested equipment or supply.
- The requested equipment or supplies must be safe for use in the home.
- The client must be seen by a physician no more than 6 months prior to the start of service.

For any purchased DME, the DME provider and the client must sign the DME Certification and Receipt Form that is available on the TMHP website at www.tmhp.com before the claim is submitted for payment. The client's signature on the certification form verifies that the DME is the property of the client. The certification form must include:

- The date that the client received the DME
- The name of the item
- The name of the separate receiver/monitor if applicable
- The printed name of the client or primary caregiver
- The printed name of the provider
- The signature of the client or primary caregiver
- The signature of the provider

The provider must maintain a completed copy of the certification form in the client's record.

The completed, signed, and dated DME Certification and Receipt Form must be submitted to TMHP for claims and appeals for DME that meet or exceed a billed amount of $2,500.00. The form must also be submitted when multiple items that meet or exceed a total billed amount of $2,500.00 are billed for the same DOS. The form is required in addition to obtaining prior authorization, when applicable.

If the DME Certification and Receipt Form is not submitted to TMHP, the claim payment or appeal will be reviewed and will be eligible for recoupment. Incomplete forms will be returned to the provider for correction and resubmission.

TMHP will contact clients that received DME that meets or exceeds a billed amount of $2,500.00 to verify that services were rendered. If the delivery of the equipment cannot be verified by the client, the claim payment will be eligible for recoupment.

DME providers must maintain all Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Forms and Addendum to Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Forms in client files. To document the item and date of delivery for all DME that is provided to a client, DME providers must also retain the following documentation:

- All delivery slips
- Corresponding invoices
- The completed, signed, and dated DME Certification and Receipt Form

DME providers must disclose this documentation to HHSC or its designee upon request.

The DME must be used for medical or therapeutic purposes, and supplied through an enrolled DME provider in compliance with the client's POC.

These records and claims must be retained for a minimum of five years from the DOS or until audit questions, appeals, hearings, investigations, or court cases are resolved. Use of these services is subject to retrospective review.

> ***Note:*** *All purchased equipment must be new upon delivery to client. Used equipment may be utilized for lease, but when purchased, must be replaced with new equipment.*

HHSC/TMHP reserves the right to request the Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Form or Addendum to Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Form at any time.

DME must meet the following requirements to qualify for reimbursement under Home Health Services:

- The client received the equipment as prescribed by the physician.

- The equipment has been properly fitted to the client or meets the client's needs.
- The client, the parent or guardian of the client, or the primary caregiver of the client, has received training and instruction regarding the equipment's proper use and maintenance.

DME must:

- Be medically necessary due to illness or injury or to improve the functioning of a body part, as documented by the physician in the client's POC or the Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/ Medical Supplies Physician Order Form.
- Be prior authorized by the TMHP Home Health Services Prior Authorization Department for rental or purchase of most equipment. Some equipment does not require prior authorization. Prior authorization for equipment rental can be issued for up to six months based on diagnosis and medical necessity. If an extension is needed, requests can be made up to 60 days before the start of the new prior authorization period with a new Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Form.
- Meet the client's existing medical and treatment needs.
- Be considered safe for use in the home.
- Be provided through an enrolled DME provider or supplier.

Note: *Texas Health Steps (THSteps)-eligible clients who qualify for medically necessary services beyond the limits of this home health benefit will receive those services through CCP.*

DME that has been delivered to the client's home and then found to be inappropriate for the client's condition will not be eligible for an upgrade within the first six months following purchase unless there has been a significant change in the client's condition, as documented by the physician familiar with the client. All adjustments and modifications within the first six months after delivery are considered part of the purchase price.

All DME purchased for a client becomes the Medicaid client's property upon receipt of the item. This property includes equipment delivered which will not be prior authorized or reimbursed in the following instances:

- Equipment delivered to the client before the physician signature date on the Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Form or Addendum to Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Form.
- Equipment delivered more than three business days before obtaining prior authorization from the TMHP Home Health Services Prior Authorization Department and meets the criteria for purchase.

Additional criteria:

- A determination as to whether the equipment will be rented, purchased, replaced, repaired, or modified will be made by HHSC or its designee based on the client's needs, duration of use, and age of the equipment.
- Periodic rental payments are made only for the lesser of either the period of time the equipment is medically necessary, or when the total monthly rental payments equal the reasonable purchase cost for the equipment.
- Purchase is justified when the estimated duration of need multiplied by the rental payments would exceed the reasonable purchase cost of the equipment or it is otherwise more practical to purchase the equipment.
- If a DME/medical supply provider is unable to deliver a prior authorized piece of equipment or supply, the provider should allow the client the option of obtaining the equipment or supplies from another provider.

Items or services are reimbursed at the lesser of:

- The provider's billed charges
- The published fee determined by HHSC
- Manual pricing as determined by HHSC based on one of the following:
  - The manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP) less 18 percent
  - The provider's documented invoice cost

If an item is manually priced, providers must submit documentation of one of the following for consideration of purchase or rental with the appropriate procedure codes:

- The MSRP or average wholesale price (AWP), whichever is applicable
- The provider's documented invoice cost

Note: *Handwritten alterations (crossing out of information or changing values) of the invoice render the invoice invalid.*

2.2.2.1 Modifications, Adjustments, and Repairs

Modifications are the replacement of components because of changes in the client's condition, not replacement because the component is no longer functioning as designed. All modifications and adjustments within the first six months after delivery are considered part of the purchase price.

Modifications to custom equipment may be prior authorized should a change occur in the client's needs, capabilities, or physical and mental status which cannot be anticipated.

Documentation must include the following:

- All projected changes in the client's mobility needs
- The date of purchase, and serial number of the current equipment
- The cost of purchasing new equipment versus modifying the current equipment

All modifications within the first six months after delivery are considered part of the purchase price, except for the push-rim activated power assist wheelchair (PAPAW) system. A PAPAW system may be considered for prior authorization with a new seating assessment form within the first six months after fitting and delivery.

Adjustments do not require supplies. Adjustments made within the first six months after delivery will not be prior authorized. Adjustments made within the first six months after delivery are considered part of the purchase price. A maximum of one hour of labor for adjustments may be prior authorized as needed after the first six months following delivery.

Repairs to client-owned equipment may be prior authorized as needed with documentation of medical necessity. Technician fees are considered part of the cost of the repair. Repairs require the replacement of components that are no longer functional. Providers are responsible for maintaining documentation in the client's medical record specifying the repairs and supporting medical necessity.

A DME repair will be considered based on the age of the item and cost to repair it.

A request for repair of DME must include an itemized estimated cost list from the vendor or DME provider of the repairs. Rental equipment may be provided to replace purchased medical equipment for the period of time it will take to make necessary repairs to purchased medical equipment.

Repairs will not be prior authorized in situations where the equipment has been abused or neglected by the client, client's family, or caregiver. Routine maintenance of rental equipment is the provider's responsibility. For clients requiring wheelchair repairs only, the date last seen by physician does not need to be filled in on the Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Form.

2.2.2.1.1 Accessories

Equipment accessories including, but not limited to, pressure support cushions, may be prior authorized with documentation of medical necessity.

2.2.2.2 Prior Authorization

Prior authorization is required for most DME and supplies provided through Home Health Services. These services include accessories, modifications, adjustments, and repairs for the equipment.

Providers must submit a completed Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Form to the TMHP Home Health Services Prior Authorization Department.

Unless otherwise noted in this handbook, a completed Home Health Services (Title XIX) Durable Medical Equipment (DME) or Medical Supplies Physician Order Form prescribing the DME or supplies must be signed and dated by a physician and by the representative of the DME/Medical Supply provider familiar with the client before requesting prior authorization for all DME equipment and supplies. A current signature and date is valid for no more than 90 days prior to the date of the requested prior authorization or the initiation of service. The completed Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/ Medical Supplies Physician Order Form must include the procedure codes and numerical quantities for services requested.

A copy of the completed, signed, and dated Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Form must be maintained by the DME provider. The ordering physician must maintain the completed, originally signed, and dated Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Form in the client's medical record.

To complete the prior authorization process by paper, the provider must fax or mail the completed Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Form to the Home Health Services Prior Authorization Department and retain a copy of the completed, signed, and dated form in the client's medical record at the provider's place of business.

To complete the prior authorization process electronically, the provider must submit the prior authorization requirements through any approved electronic methods and retain a copy of the completed, signed, and dated Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Form in the client's medical record at the provider's place of business.

Retrospective review may be performed to ensure that the documentation included in the client's medical record supports the medical necessity of the requested services.

The date last seen by the physician must be within the past 6 months. The physician's signature on the Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Form is only valid for 90 days before the initiation of services. The requesting provider may be asked for additional information to clarify or complete the request.

Providers must obtain prior authorization within three business days of providing the service by calling the TMHP Home Health Services Prior Authorization Department or faxing the Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Form.

To facilitate a determination of medical necessity and avoid unnecessary denials when requesting prior authorization, the physician must provide correct and complete information supporting the medical necessity of the equipment or supplies requested, including:

- Accurate diagnostic information pertaining to the underlying diagnosis or condition as well as any other medical diagnoses or conditions, to include the client's overall health status.
- Diagnosis or condition causing the impairment resulting in a need for the equipment or supplies requested.

Purchased DME is anticipated to last a minimum of five years, unless otherwise noted, and may be considered for replacement when the time has passed or the equipment is no longer functional or repairable. A copy of the police or fire report, when appropriate, and the measures to be taken to prevent reoccurrence must be submitted.

Prior authorization for equipment replacement is considered within five years of equipment purchase when one of the following occurs:

- There has been a significant change in the client's condition such that the current equipment no longer meets the client's needs.
- The equipment is no longer functional and either cannot be repaired or it is not cost-effective to repair.

Replacement of equipment is also considered when loss or irreparable damage has occurred. The following must be submitted with the prior authorization request:

- A copy of the police or fire report, when appropriate
- A statement about the measures to be taken in order to prevent reoccurrence

Payment may be prior authorized for repair of purchased DME. Maintenance of rental equipment (including repairs) is the supplier's responsibility. The toll-free number for the TMHP Home Health Services Prior Authorization Department is 1-800-925-8957. Requests for repairs must include the cost estimate, reasons for repairs, age of equipment, and serial number.

2.2.3 Home Health DME and Supplies Exceptional Circumstances Provision

The Home Health Durable Medical Equipment (DME) and Supplies Exceptional Circumstances provision is made available in accordance with Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §440.70 and Title 1 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §354.1039. Under the Exceptional Circumstances provision, Texas Medicaid is obligated to consider coverage of medically necessary DME and supplies that are not currently listed as benefits of Texas Medicaid for clients who are 21 years of age or older.

2.2.3.1 Prior Authorization Requests for Home Health DME and Supplies under the Exceptional Circumstances Provision

All Exceptional Circumstances DME and supplies must be prior authorized. The Home Health DME and Supplies Exceptional Circumstances provision is not an available process to pursue for clients who receive prior authorization denials for medical necessity or technical reasons (e.g., missing essential fields, incomplete documentation). Clients that have been denied prior authorization under these circumstances may appeal the decision through the regular fair hearing process.

To request prior authorization for home health DME and supplies under the Exceptional Circumstances provision, providers must submit a written notice to TMHP. The written notice must include:

- Completed copies of all of the necessary forms for the requested home health DME or supplies, such as the Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Form, Special Medical Prior Authorization (SMPA) Request Form, Prior Authorization Request for Oxygen Therapy Devices and Supplies, Wound Care Equipment and Supplies Order Form etc. The forms must be signed and dated by the prescribing physician along with a cover letter indicating the forms are being submitted under the Home Health DME and Supplies Exceptional Circumstances provision.
- The client's specific diagnosis, medical needs and the reasons why they can only be met by the requested home health DME or supply.
- A clear, concise description of the requested DME or supply.
- The manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP) for the requested DME or supply or an invoice documenting the provider's cost.

- Letters of Medical Necessity (LOMN) from the client's prescribing physician and other clinical professionals, as appropriate, documenting the alternative measures and alternative DME or supplies that have been tried and have failed to meet the client's medical needs, or have been ruled out and an explanation of why they have failed or have been ruled out.

Important: *TMHP may request additional supporting documentation after reviewing the initial request.*

2.2.3.2 Reimbursement and Billing

TMHP will only consider reimbursement for home health DME and supplies under the Exceptional Circumstances provision if:

- Providers request DME and supplies using the most appropriate procedure code available.
- TMHP approves the prior authorization request.

2.2.4 Medical Supplies

Medical supplies are benefits of the Home Health Services Program if they meet the following criteria:

- Unless otherwise noted in this handbook, the representative of the DME/medical supply provider and a physician who is familiar with the client must sign and date a completed Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Form that prescribes the DME or supplies before requesting prior authorization for the DME or supplies. A current signature and date is valid for no more than 90 days prior to the date of the requested prior authorization or the initiation of service. The completed Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Form must include the procedure codes and numerical quantities for the services requested.
- The provider must contact TMHP within three business days of providing the supplies to the client and obtain prior authorization, if required.
- The durable medical equipment provider must keep all completed copies of the Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Forms and Addendum to Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Forms on file. The ordering physician must maintain copies of the completed, originally signed, and dated Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Form and Addendum to Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Forms in their records.
- Providers must retain individual delivery slips or invoices for each DOS that documents the date of delivery for all supplies provided to a client and must disclose them to HHSC or its designee upon request. Documentation of delivery must include one of the following:
  - Delivery slip or corresponding invoice signed and dated by client or caregiver, or
  - A dated carrier tracking document with shipping date and delivery date must be printed from the carrier's website as confirmation that the supplies were shipped and delivered. The dated carrier tracking document must be attached to the delivery slip or corresponding invoice.
- The dated delivery slip or invoice must include the client's full name, the address to which supplies were delivered, and an itemized list of goods that includes the descriptions and numerical quantities of the supplies delivered to the client and the corresponding tracking number from the carrier. This document could also include prices, shipping weights, shipping charges, or other descriptions.
- All claims submitted for medical supplies must include the same quantities or units that are documented on the delivery slip or corresponding invoice and on the Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Form. They must reflect the number of units by which each product is measured. For example, diapers are measured as individual units. If one package of 300 diapers is delivered, the delivery slip or corresponding invoice and the claim must reflect that 300 diapers were delivered and not that one package was delivered. Diaper wipes are

measured as boxes or packages. If one box of 200 wipes is delivered, the delivery slip or invoice and the claim must reflect that one box was delivered and not that 200 individual wipes were delivered. There must be one dated delivery slip or invoice for each claim submitted for each client. All claims submitted for medical supplies must reflect either one business day before or one business day after the date of service as documented on the delivery slip or corresponding invoice and the same time frame covered by the Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Form. The DME Certification and Receipt Form is still required for all equipment delivered.

Note: *These records and claims must be retained for a minimum of five years from the DOS or until audit questions, appeals, hearings, investigations, or court cases are resolved. Use of these services is subject to retrospective review.*

- The ordering physician must document medical supplies as medically necessary in the client's POC or on a completed Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Form and Addendum to Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Form.

HHSC/TMHP reserves the right to request the signed and dated Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Form or Addendum to Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Form at any time.

Note: *Client eligibility can change monthly. Providers are responsible for verifying eligibility before providing supplies.*

The DOS is the date on which supplies are delivered to the client or shipped by a carrier to the client as evidenced by the dated tracking document attached to the invoice for that date. The provider must maintain the signed and dated records supporting documentation that an item was not billed before delivery. These records are subject to retrospective review.

Refer to: Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Form on the TMHP website at www.tmhp.com.

Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Form Instructions on the TMHP website at www.tmhp.com.

Subsection 2.8, "Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Supplier (CCP)" in the *Children's Services Handbook* (*Vol. 2, Provider Handbooks*) for specific information about certain DME and medical supplies.

Subsection 2.2.1.1, "Client Eligibility" in this handbook.

2.2.4.1 Supply Procedure Codes

When submitting supplies on the CMS-1500 claim form, itemize the supplies, including quantities, and also provide the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) national procedure codes.

Refer to: Subsection 6.3.3, "Procedure Coding" in "Section 6: Claims Filing" (*Vol. 1, General Information*) for more information about HCPCS procedure codes.

2.2.4.2 Prior Authorization

TMHP must prior authorize most medical supplies. They must be used for medical or therapeutic purposes, and supplied through an enrolled DME provider in compliance with the client's POC.

Some medical supplies may be obtained without prior authorization; however, the provider must retain a copy of the completed POC or Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Form in the client's file. Unless otherwise noted in this handbook, a completed Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Form for medical supplies not requiring prior authorization may be valid for a maximum of six months, unless the physician indicates the

duration of need is less. If the physician indicates the duration of need is less than six months, then a new Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Form is required at the end of the determined duration of need.

For a list of DME/medical supplies that do not require prior authorization, providers can refer to subsection 2.2.30, "Procedure Codes That Do Not Require Prior Authorization" in this handbook.

Clients with ongoing needs may receive up to six months of prior authorizations for some expendable medical supplies under Home Health Services when requested on a Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Form. Providers may deliver medical supplies as ordered on a Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Form for up to six months from the date of the physician's signature. In these instances, a review of the supplies requested by the physician familiar with the client's condition, and a new Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Form is required for each new prior authorization request. Requests for prior authorization can be made up to 60 days before the start of the new prior authorization period. Professional Home Health Services prior authorization requests require a review by the physician familiar with the client's condition and a physician signature every 60 days when requested on a POC.

Note: *These records and claims must be retained for a minimum of five years from the DOS or until audit questions, appeals, hearings, investigations, or court cases are resolved. Use of these services is subject to retrospective review.*

2.2.4.3 Cancelling a Prior Authorization

The client has the right to choose his DME/medical supply provider and change providers. If the client changes providers, TMHP must receive a change of provider letter with a new Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Form. The client must sign and date the letter, which must include the name of the previous provider and the effective date for the change. The client is responsible for notifying the original provider of the change and the effective date. Prior authorization for the new provider can only be issued up to three business days before the date TMHP receives the change of provider letter and the new Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Form.

2.2.5 Augmentative Communication Device (ACD) System

An ACD system, also known as an augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) device system, allows a client with an expressive speech language disorder to electronically represent vocabulary and express thoughts or ideas in order to meet the client's functional speech needs.

Digitized speech devices and synthesized speech devices are benefits of Texas Medicaid Title XIX Home Health Services.

A digitized speech device, sometimes referred to as a "whole message" speech output device, uses words or phrases that have been recorded by someone other than the ACD system user for playback upon command by the ACD system user.

Providers must use procedure codes E2500, E2502, E2504, and E2506 when billing for a digitized speech device.

A synthesized speech device uses technology that translates a user's input into device-generated speech using algorithms representing linguistic rules. Users of synthesized speech ACD systems are not limited to prerecorded messages, but can independently create messages as their communication needs dictate. Some synthesized speech devices require the user to make physical contact with a keyboard, touch screen, or other display containing letters.

Providers must use procedure code E2508 when billing for a synthesized speech device.

Other synthesized devices allow for multiple methods of message formulation and multiple methods of device access. Multiple methods of message formulation must include message selection by two or more of the following methods:

- Letters
- Words
- Pictures
- Symbols

Multiple methods of access must include the capability to access the device by direct physical contact with a keyboard or touch screen and one or more of the following indirect selection techniques:

- Joystick/switches
- Head mouse
- Optical head pointer
- Light pointer
- Infrared pointer
- Scanning device
- Morse code

Note: *ACD systems that do not meet the criteria through Title XIX Home Health Services may be considered for clients who are birth through 20 years of age under CCP.*

Providers must use procedure code E2510 when billing for other synthesized speech devices.

Items included in the reimbursement for an ACD system and not reimbursed separately include, but are not limited to, the following:

- ACD
- Basic, essential software (except for software purchased specifically to enable a client-owned computer or personal digital assistant [PDA] to function as an ACD system)
- Batteries
- Battery charger
- Power supplies
- Interface cables
- Interconnects
- Sensors
- Moisture guard
- Alternating current (A/C) or other adapters
- Adequate memory to allow for system expansion within a three-year timeframe
- All basic operational training necessary to instruct the client and family/caregivers in the use of the ACD system
- Manufacturer's warranty

2.2.5.1 ACD System Accessories

Accessories are a benefit of Texas Medicaid if the criteria for ACD system prior authorization are met and the medical necessity for each accessory is clearly documented in the speech language pathologist (SLP) evaluation.

All accessories necessary for proper use of an ACD system, including those necessary for the potential growth and expansion of the ACD system (such as a memory card), must be included in the initial prescription/Title XIX form. The following accessories for an ACD system may be covered:

- Access devices for an ACD system include, but are not limited to, devices that enable selection of letters, words, or symbols by direct or indirect selection techniques such as optical head pointers, joysticks, and ACD scanning devices.
- Gross motor access devices, such as switches and buttons, may be considered for clients with poor fine motor and head control.
- Fine motor, head control access devices, such as laser or infrared pointers, may be considered for clients with poor hand control and good head control.

Mounting systems are devices necessary to place the ACD system, switches and other access devices within the reach of the client. Mounting devices may be considered for reimbursement when used to attach an ACD system or access device to a wheelchair or table.

A request for prior authorization of a wheelchair mounting device must include the manufacturer name, model, and purchase date of the wheelchair. One additional mounting device, separate from the one included in the system, may be considered for prior authorization for the same client.

Providers must use procedure codes E2512 and E2599 when billing for ACD system accessories.

2.2.5.1.1 Carrying Case

Carrying cases may be considered for separate reimbursement with supporting documentation of medical necessity.

Providers must use procedure code E2599 and modifier U1 when billing for the carrying case. Carrying cases are limited to one every three years.

Carrying cases may be considered for prior authorization. The prior authorization request must include the make, model, and purchase date of the ACD system.

2.2.5.1.2 Nonwarranty Repairs

Nonwarranty repairs of an ACD system may be considered for prior authorization using procedure code V5336 with documentation from the manufacturer explaining why the repair is not covered by the warranty.

2.2.5.1.3 Trial Period

In order to ensure the client's needs are met in the most cost effective manner and to ascertain the most appropriate system and access device for the client, the ACD system is prior authorized for purchase only after the client has completed a three-month trial period that includes experience with the requested system.

The ACD system for the trial period may be obtained through the rental, the school setting, or another setting determined by the licensed SLP.

In the situation where an ACD system is not available for rental and the client has recent documented experience with the requested ACD system, purchase can be considered.

A trial period is not required when replacing an existing ACD system, unless the client's needs have changed and another ACD system or access device is being considered.

2.2.5.1.4 Rental

Prior authorization may be provided for rental during this trial period. All components necessary for use of the device, such as access devices, mounting devices, and lap trays, must be evaluated during this trial period.

2.2.5.1.5 Purchase

Purchase of an ACD system may be considered for prior authorization when all of the following ACD system criteria are met:

- The evaluation/re-evaluation includes documentation that the client has had sufficient experience with the requested ACD system through trial, rental, school, or another setting. When the SLP has confirmed the appropriateness of a specific device for the client, the trial/rental period may be cancelled.
- A Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Order Form listing the prescribed ACD system, access device, and accessories (such as a mounting device) must be completed, signed by the physician, and dated.

ACD systems, equipment, and accessories that have been purchased are anticipated to last a minimum of three years.

2.2.5.1.6 Replacement

Prior authorization for replacement may be considered within three years of purchase when one of the following occurs:

- There has been a significant change in the client's condition such that the current device no longer meets his or her communication needs.
- The ACD system is no longer functional and either cannot be repaired or it is not cost effective to repair.
- Three years have passed and the equipment is no longer repairable.

Note: *Replacements for clients who are birth through 20 years of age that do not meet the criteria above may be considered through CCP.*

2.2.5.1.7 Software

Computer software that enables a client's computer or PDA to function as an ACD system may be covered as an ACD system. Providers must use procedure code E2511 when billing for a speech generating software. Requests for ACD software may be considered for prior authorization if the software is more cost effective than an ACD system.

If an ACD system is more cost effective than adapting the client's computer or PDA, an ACD system may be prior authorized instead of the ACD software.

Laptop or desktop computers, PDAs, or other devices that are not dedicated ACD systems are not a benefit of Texas Medicaid, because they do not meet the definition of DME.

2.2.5.2 Non-Covered ACD System Items

Noncovered items that are not necessary to operate the system and are unrelated to the ACD system or software components are not benefits of Texas Medicaid. These items include, but are not limited to:

- Printer
- Wireless Internet access devices

Specialized evaluations required for the provision of new complex rehabilitation technology, such as augmentative communication devices, require physical in-person presence of the rendering provider.

Note: *For clients who are 21 years of age or older, requests for ACD systems that do not meet the criteria through Title XIX Home Health Services may be considered under the Texas Medicaid Home Health—Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Exceptional Circumstances process.*

2.2.5.3 Prior Authorization

Prior authorization is required for ACD systems provided through Home Health Services. The prior authorization also includes all related accessories and supplies. The physician must provide information supporting the medical necessity of the equipment or supplies requested, including:

- Accurate diagnostic information pertaining to the underlying diagnosis or condition and any other medical diagnoses or conditions, including the client's overall physical and cognitive limitations.
- Diagnosis or condition causing the impairment of speech.

Prior authorization for an ACD system and accessories (rental or purchase) must be requested using the following information:

- Medical diagnosis and how it relates to the client's communication needs.
- Any significant medical information pertinent to ACD system use.
- Limitations of the client's current communication abilities, systems, and devices.
- Statement as to why the prescribed ACD system is the most effective, including a comparison of benefits using other alternatives.
- Complete description of the ACD system with all accessories, components, mounting devices, or modifications necessary for client use (must include manufacturer's name, model number, and retail price).
- Documentation that the client is mentally, emotionally, and physically capable of operating the device.
- An evaluation and assessment must be conducted by a licensed SLP in conjunction with other disciplines, such as physical or occupational therapies. The prescribing physician must base the prescription on the professional evaluation and assessment.

The prior authorization request must include the specifications for the ACD system, all component accessories necessary for the proper use of the ACD, and all necessary therapies or training. It is recommended that the preliminary evaluation for an ACD system include the involvement of an occupational therapist or physical therapist to address the client's seating/postural needs and the motor skills required to utilize the ACD system.

The prescribing physician familiar with the client must review the SLP evaluation of the client's cognitive and language abilities and base the prescription and treatment plan on the SLP's recommendations.

An evaluation and assessment by a licensed SLP must be signed and dated before the date on the physician's prescription or the Title XIX form and include the following information:

- Documentation of medical necessity for an ACD system, including a formal written evaluation performed by a licensed SLP.
- Medical status or condition and medical diagnoses underlying the client's expressive speech-language disorder that justifies the need for an ACD system.
- Current expressive speech-language disorder, including the type, severity, anticipated course, and present language skills.

- Description of the practical limitations of the client's current aided and unaided modes of communication.
- Other forms of therapy or intervention that have been considered and ruled out.
- Rationale for the recommended ACD system and each accessory, including a statement as to why the recommended device is the most appropriate and least costly alternative for the client and how the recommended system will benefit the client.
- Documentation that the client possesses the cognitive and physical abilities to use the recommended system.
- Comprehensive description of how the ACD system will be integrated into the client's everyday life, including home, school, or work.
- Treatment plan that includes training in the basic operation of the recommended ACD system necessary to ensure optimal use by the client (if appropriate, the client's caregiver) and a therapy schedule for the client to gain proficiency in using the ACD system.
- Description of the client's speech-language goals and how the recommended ACD system will assist the client in achieving these goals.
- Description of the anticipated changes, modifications, or upgrades with projected time frames of the ACD system necessary to meet the client's short- and long-term speech-language needs.
- Identification of the assistance or support needed by, and available to, the client to use and maintain the ACD system.
- Statement that the licensed SLP is financially independent of the ACD system manufacturer/vendor.
- Speech- and language- skills assessment that includes the prognosis for speech or written communication.
- Interactional/behavioral and social abilities.
- Capabilities, including intellectual, postural, sensory (visual and auditory), and physical status.
- Motivation to communicate.
- Residential, vocational, and educational setting.
- Alternative ACD system considered with comparison of capabilities.
- Ability to meet projected communication needs, growth potential, and length of time it will meet the client's needs.

2.2.6 Bath and Bathroom Equipment

Bath and bathroom equipment is DME that is included in a treatment protocol, serves as a therapeutic agent for life and health maintenance, and is required to treat an identified medical condition. Bath and bathroom equipment may be considered for reimbursement for those clients who have physical limitations that do not allow for bathing, showering, or bathroom use without assistive equipment.

Bath seats are not considered for clients who are younger than one year of age or weighing less than 30 pounds.

> ***Note:*** *For clients who are 21 years of age or older, requests for bath and bathroom equipment that do not meet the criteria through Title XIX Home Health Services may be considered under the Texas Medicaid Home Health—Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Exceptional Circumstances process.*

Rental of equipment includes all necessary supplies, adjustments, repairs, and replacement parts.

2.2.6.1 Hand-Held Shower Wand

A hand-held shower wand with attachments may be considered for prior authorization only if the client currently owns or meets the criteria for a bath or shower chair, tub stool or bench, or tub transfer bench. Prior authorization of a hand-held shower wand includes all attachments and accessories. Providers must use procedure code E1399 when billing for a hand-held shower wand. Hand-held shower wands with attachments are limited to one every five years.

2.2.6.2 Bath Equipment

2.2.6.2.1 Bath or Shower Chairs, Tub Stool or Bench, Tub Transfer Bench

A bath or shower chair is a stationary or mobile seat with or without upper body or head support used to support a client who is unable to stand or sit independently in the shower or tub.

Bath/shower chairs are grouped into three levels of design to assist the client based on their physical condition and mobility status:

- Level 1- standard bath or shower chair is defined as stationary equipment.
- Level 2 - intermediate bath or shower chair is defined as mobile equipment with or without a commode cut out.
- Level 3 - complex bath or shower chair is defined as custom equipment (either stationary or mobile) with or without a commode cut out.

A tub stool or bench is a stationary seat or bench used to support a client who is unable to stand or sit independently in the shower or tub.

A tub transfer bench is a stationary bench that sits in the tub and extends outside the tub. It is used to support a client who is unable to stand or sit independently in the shower or tub and allows the client to scoot or slide over the side of the tub.

Bath or shower chairs, tub stools or benches, and tub transfers are limited to one every five years.

A custom bath or shower chair may be considered for prior authorization only if the client does not also have any type of commode chair.

Level 1 Group

A Level 1 device may be considered if the client:

- Is either unable to stand independently or is unstable while standing, or
- Is unable to independently enter or exit the shower or tub due to limited functional use of the upper or lower extremities, and
- Maintains the ability to ambulate short distances (with or without assistive device), or
- Has a condition that is defined as a short-term disability without a concomitant long-term disability (including, but not limited to postoperative status).

Providers must use procedure code E0240 without a modifier when billing for Level 1 group bath or shower chairs.

Level 2 Group

A Level 2 device may be considered if the client:

- Has good upper body stability, and
- Has impaired functional ambulation, including, but not limited to, lower body paralysis, osteoarthritis, or
- Is nonambulatory.

The client must have a shower that is adapted for rolling equipment; ramps will not be prior authorized for access to showers.

Providers must use procedure code E0240 and modifier TF (Intermediate Level) when billing for Level 2 group bath or shower chairs.

Level 3 Group

A Level 3 device may be considered if the client requires:

- Trunk or head or neck support, or
- Positioning to accommodate conditions, including, but not limited to, spasticity, or frequent and uncontrolled seizures.

Providers must use procedure code E0240 and modifier TG (Complex/high Level) when billing for Level 3 group bath/shower chairs.

A bath or shower chair may be prior authorized for clients who meet the Level 1, 2, or 3 criteria. A Level 3 custom bath or shower chair may be prior authorized only if the client does not also have any type of commode chair. A Level 3 mobile bath or shower chair may be considered for clients who have a shower that is adapted for rolling equipment; ramps will not be prior authorized for access to showers.

A tub stool or bench may be prior authorized for clients who meet the Level 1 criteria. Providers must use procedure code E0245 when billing for a tub stool or bench.

A tub transfer bench may be considered for clients who meet the Level 1 or 2 criteria. Providers must use procedure code E0247 when billing for a tub transfer bench.

A heavy duty tub transfer bench may be considered for clients who meet the Level 1 or 2 criteria and who weigh more than 200 pounds. Providers must use procedure code E0248 when billing for a heavy duty tub transfer bench.

2.2.6.3 Bathroom Equipment

2.2.6.3.1 Non-fixed Toilet Rail, Bathtub Rail Attachment, and Raised Toilet Seat

Nonfixed toilet rails are limited to two every five years. A bathtub rail is limited to one every five years.

Raised toilet seats are limited to one every five years. Nonfixed toilet rails and bathtub rail attachments may be considered for prior authorization for a client who has decreased functional mobility and is unable to safely self-toilet or self-bathe without assistive equipment. Raised toilet seats do not require prior authorization. Providers must use procedure code E0243 when billing for non-fixed toilet rails, procedure code E0244 when billing for raised toilet seats, and procedure code E0246 when billing for bathtub rails.

2.2.6.3.2 Toilet Seat Lifts

A toilet seat lift mechanism is designed for the top of the toilet to assist lifting the body from a sitting position to a standing position.

A toilet seat lift mechanism must be prior authorized. To qualify for prior authorization, clients must meet all 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.

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 with a sudden, catapult-like motion that jolts the client from a seated to a standing position is not a benefit of Texas Medicaid.

Providers must use procedure code E0172 when billing for a toilet seat lift mechanism. A toilet seat lift mechanism is limited to one purchase very five years.

2.2.6.3.3 Commode Chairs and Foot Rests

Commode chairs, foot rests, and replacement commode pails or pans may be considered as benefits, depending on the client's level of need. The client must meet the criteria for the level of commode chair or foot rest requested.

A commode chair with or without a foot rest may be considered a benefit for the client who also has a stationary bath chair without a commode cutout.

Documentation must support medical necessity for a customized commode chair or the addition of attachments to a standard commode chair.

Level 1: Stationary Commode Chair

A Level 1 commode chair is defined as a stationary commode chair with fixed or removable attachments to support the arms.

A stationary commode chair with fixed or removable arms may be considered for prior authorization when the client has a medical condition that results in an inability to ambulate to the bathroom safely (with or without mobility aids).

Providers must use procedure code E0163 or E0165 when billing for a stationary and mobile commode chair.

Level 2: Mobile Commode Chair

A Level 2 commode chair is defined as a mobile commode chair with fixed or removable attachments to support the arms.

A mobile commode chair with fixed or removable arms may be considered for prior authorization when the following criteria are met:

- In addition to meeting the criteria for a Level 1 commode chair, the client must be on a bowel program and require a combination commode or bath chair for performing the bowel program and bathing after.
- A mobile commode chair will be considered for reimbursement with prior authorization only if the client does not also have any type of bath chair. If the client meets the criteria for a stationary bath chair, prior authorization of a stationary chair may be considered.

Level 3: Custom Commode Chair

A Level 3 commode chair is defined as a custom commode chair with all of the following characteristics:

- Is stationary or mobile

- Has fixed or removable attachments to support the arms, head, neck, or trunk.

A custom stationary or mobile commode chair with fixed or removable arms and head, neck, and/or trunk support attachments may be considered for prior authorization when the following criteria are met:

- In addition to meeting the criteria for a Level 1 or 2 commode chair, the client must have a medical condition that results in an inability to support their head, neck, or trunk without assistance.
- A mobile custom commode chair may be considered for reimbursement only if the client does not also have any type of bath chair.

Providers must use procedure code E0163 or E0165 with modifier TG when billing for a custom stationary or mobile commode chair.

Extra-wide and Heavy-Duty Commode Chair

An extra-wide, heavy-duty commode chair is defined as one with a width greater than or equal to 23 inches, and capable of supporting a client who weighs 300 pounds or more.

An extra-wide or heavy-duty commode chair may be considered for prior authorization when the client meets the criteria for a Level 1, 2, or 3 commode chair and weigh 300 pounds or more.

Providers must use procedure code E0168 and the appropriate modifiers when billing for an extra-wide or heavy-duty commode chair. Use modifier TF when billing for a mobile extra-wide, heavy-duty commode chair. Use modifier TG when billing for a custom extra-wide, heavy-duty commode chair.

Commode Chair With Integrated Seat Lift

A commode chair with integrated seat lift is designed to assist lifting the body from a sitting position to a standing position.

A commode chair with integrated seat lift mechanism for top of the commode must be prior authorized for clients who meet all the following criteria:

- The client must have severe arthritis of the hip or knee or have a severe neuromuscular disease.
- The client must be completely incapable of standing up from a regular toilet, commode, or any chair in their home.
- The commode chair with integrated seat lift 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 independently for a short distance of no more than ten feet.

Note: *The fact that a client has difficulty or is even incapable of getting up from a chair, particularly a low chair, is not sufficient justification for a 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.*

Providers must use procedure code E0170 or E0171 when billing for a commode chair with integrated seat lift. The purchase of a commode chair with integrated seat lift is limited to one every five years.

Replacement Commode Pail or Pan

Replacement commode pails or pans are a benefit through Title XIX Home Health Services and are limited to one per year. Additional quantities may be considered for prior authorization with documentation of medical necessity.

Providers must use procedure code E0167 when billing for a commode pail or pan.

Foot Rest

A foot rest is used to support feet during use of the commode chair.

A foot rest may be considered for prior authorization if the client meets the criteria for a Level 1, 2, or 3 commode chair and the foot rest is necessary to support contractures of the lower extremities of clients who are paraplegic or quadriplegic.

Providers must use procedure code E0175 when billing for a foot rest.

2.2.6.3.4 Portable Sitz Bath

Portable sitz baths that fit over commode seats are limited to two per year for clients requiring any of the following:

- Cleaning, irrigation, or pain relief of a perianal wound.
- Relief of pain associated with the pelvic area (hemorrhoids, bladder, vaginal infections, prostate infections, herpes, testicle disorders).
- Muscle toning for bowel and bladder incontinence.

Providers must use procedure codes E0160 or E0161 when billing for portable sitz baths.

2.2.6.3.5 Bath Lifts

The purchase of a bath lift is limited to one every five years. The rental of a bath lift is limited to one per month.

The two types of bath lifts that are considered for reimbursement include:

- An outside the tub bath lift which is a portable transfer system used to move a nonambulatory client a short distance from bed or chair to bath and is designed to accommodate the smaller space. This type of lift is either hydraulic or electric and consists of a base with wheels or casters and a sling which can transfer the client in and out of the bath.
- An inside the tub bath lift is a portable transfer system used to lower and raise a nonambulatory client into and out of the bath tub. This type of lift is either hydraulic or electric and consists of a base which adheres to the tub surface using suction cups and a seat that will lower and raise the client into and out of the tub.

Providers must use procedure code E0625 with the appropriate modifier (U1, U2, or U3) if necessary when billing for a bath lift.

The bath lift must be free standing, it cannot be attached to the floor, walls, or ceiling. Home adaptation for use of medical equipment is not a benefit of Home Health Services.

A hydraulic bath lift is for a client who is unable to assist in their own transfers and is operated by the weight or pressure of a liquid.

An electric bath lift is operated by electricity and may be considered when a hydraulic lift will not meet the client's needs.

A bath lift is not a benefit for the convenience of a caregiver.

There are four levels of bath lifts:

- Level 1 - an outside the tub bath lift (hydraulic or electric) and must accommodate a client weighing up to 300 pounds. Providers must use procedure code E0625 when billing for the purchase of a Level 1 bath lift.
- Level 2 - an in-tub bath lift (hydraulic or electric) and must accommodate a client weighing up to 300 pounds. Providers must use procedure code E0625 and the U1 modifier when billing for the purchase of a Level 2 bath lift.
- Level 3 - a bariatric lift (hydraulic or electric, out of tub type) designed to lift a client weighing greater than 300 pounds. Providers must use procedure code E0625 and the U2 modifier when billing for the purchase of a Level 3 bath lift.

- Level 4 - a bariatric lift (hydraulic or electric, in tub type) designed to lift a client weighing greater than 300 pounds. Providers must use procedure code E0625 and the U3 modifier when billing for the purchase of a Level 4 bath lift.

A bath lift may be considered for prior authorization if the client:

- Has an inability to transfer to the bathtub or shower independently using assistive devices (including, but not limited to, a cane, walker, bathtub rails).
- Requires maximum assistance by the caregiver to transfer to the bathtub or shower.
- Has bathroom and tub or shower that meets the manufacturer's recommended depth, width, and height for safe bath lift installation and operation.

Providers must use procedure code E0621 when billing for a lift sling. The purchase of a lift sling is limited to one every five years.

The following are payable procedure codes for bath and bathroom equipment:

Procedure Code	Maximum Limitation
E0160	2 per year
E0161	2 per year
E0163	1 every 5 years
E0165	1 every 5 years
E0167	1 per year
E0168	1 every 5 years
E0170	1 every 5 years
E0171	1 every 5 years
E0172	1 every 5 years
E0175	1 every 5 years
E0240	1 every 5 years
E0243	2 every 5 years
E0244	1 every 5 years
E0245	1 every 5 years
E0246	1 every 5 years
E0247	1 every 5 years
E0248	1 every 5 years
E0621	1 per 5 years
E0625	1 purchase every 5 years; 1-month rental
E0630	1 purchase every 5 years; 1-month rental
E1399	1 every 5 years

2.2.6.4 Prior Authorization

Except as otherwise indicated in this section, prior authorization is required for all bath and bathroom equipment and related supplies, including any accessories, modifications, adjustments, replacements and repairs to the equipment.

Bathroom and toilet lift rentals may be prior authorized during the period of repair up to a maximum of four months per lifetime per client.

Prior authorization will not be considered for modifications, adjustments, or repairs to bath or bathroom equipment delivered to a client's home and then found to be inappropriate for the client's condition within the first six months after delivery. This applies unless there is a significant change in the client's condition that is documented by a physician familiar with the client.

2.2.6.5 Documentation Requirements

2.2.6.5.1 Bath and Bathroom Equipment

To request prior authorization for all bath or bathroom equipment, the following documentation must be provided:

- Accurate diagnostic information pertaining to the underlying diagnosis or condition, including the client's overall health status, any other medical needs, developmental level, and functional mobility skills and why regular bath or bathroom equipment will not meet the client's needs.
- The age, height, and weight of the client.
- Assessment of the client's home to ensure the requested equipment can be safely accommodated.
- Anticipated changes in the client's needs, including anticipated modifications or accessory needs and the growth potential of any custom shower and bath equipment.

2.2.6.5.2 Toilet Seat Lifts

In addition to the above documentation, the submitted documentation for a toilet seat lift must include an assessment completed by a physician, physical therapist, or occupational therapist that includes all of the following:

- A description of the client's current level of function without the device
- An explanation why a nonmechanical toilet elevation device, such as toilet rails or elevated toilet seat, will not meet the client's needs
- Documentation that identifies how the toilet seat lift mechanism will improve the client's function
- A list of the mobility related activities of daily living (MRADLs) 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 how the device 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 (e.g., medication or physical therapy) have been tried and that they failed to enable the client to transfer from a chair to a standing position.

2.2.7 Blood Pressure Devices (Manual and Automated)

Blood pressure devices are benefits in the home setting for self-monitoring when:

- The devices are medically necessary and appropriate.
- The devices are prescribed by a physician.

A manual blood pressure device requires manual cuff inflation with real-time visualization of the results displayed on the manometer and does not require prior authorization for purchase when provided for one of the diagnosis codes listed in the table below. Providers must use procedure code A4660 when billing for a manual blood pressure device.

An automated blood pressure device inflates the cuff manually or automatically, displays the blood pressure results on a small screen, and does not require prior authorization for purchase when provided for one of the diagnosis codes listed in the table below. Providers must use procedure code A4670 when billing for an automated blood pressure device.

Repair of equipment may be considered with documentation of why the equipment needs repair. Providers must use procedure code A4660 when billing for the replacement of other components or repair of equipment.

Finger cuff automated blood pressure devices and ambulatory blood pressure devices for diagnostic purposes are not a benefit of Texas Medicaid.

2.2.7.1 Prior Authorization

Procedure codes A4660 and A4670 do not require prior authorization if they are billed with one of the following diagnosis codes:

Diagnosis Codes							
I10	I110	I119	I120	I129	I130	I1310	I1311
I132	I150	I151	I152	I158	I159	I160	I161
I169	I1A0	I219	I21A1	I21A9	I21B	I2601	I2602
I2609	I2690	I2692	I2693	I2694	I2699	I270	I271
I2720	I2721	I2722	I2723	I2724	I2729	I2781	I2782
I2783	I2789	I279	I340	I341	I342	I3481	I3489
I349	I350	I351	I352	I358	I359	I360	I361
I362	I368	I369	I370	I371	I372	I378	I379
I421	I422	I424	I425	I428	I429	I43	I440
I441	I442	I4430	I4439	I444	I445	I4460	I4469
I447	I450	I4510	I4519	I452	I453	I454	I455
I456	I4581	I4589	I459	I4710	I4711	I4719	I4720
I4729	I479	I480	I4811	I4819	I4820	I4821	I483
I484	I4891	I4892	I495	I501	I5020	I5021	I5022
I5023	I5030	I5031	I5032	I5033	I5040	I5041	I5042
I5043	I50810	I50811	I50812	I50813	I50814	I5082	I5083
I5084	I5089	I509	I5A	I950	I951	I952	I953
I9581	I9589	I959	N00A	N010	N011	N012	N013
N014	N015	N016	N017	N018	N01A	N02A	N02B1
N02B2	N02B3	N02B4	N02B5	N02B6	N02B9	N03A	N04A
N050	N051	N052	N053	N054	N055	N056	N057
N058	N059	N05A	N08	N130	N1330	N1339	N13721
N13722	N13729	N13731	N13732	N13739	N170	N171	N172
N178	N179	N181	N182	N1830	N1831	N1832	N184
N185	N186	N189	N250	N2589	Q200	Q201	Q202
Q203	Q204	Q205	Q208	Q210	Q2110	Q2111	Q2112
Q2113	Q2114	Q2115	Q2116	Q2119	Q2120	Q2121	Q2122
Q2123	Q213	R001	T800XXA	T81718A	T8172XA	T82817A	T82855A
T82855D	T82855S	T82856A	T82856D	T82856S			

Manual and automated blood pressure devices should last at least one year and may be considered for replacement after one year has passed. If it is medically necessary to replace nonfunctional and irreparable equipment before one year has passed, providers can submit prior authorization requests with documentation of medical necessity that explains the need for the replacement.

Prior authorization is required in the following situations:

- Another blood pressure device is medically necessary within the same year. Replacement of equipment within the same year as the purchase requires prior authorization. If equipment must be replaced before the end of the anticipated lifespan, the provider must submit a copy of the police or fire report, when appropriate, and the measures that will be taken to prevent reoccurrence.
- The diagnosis code is not in the table above. If the diagnosis code is not one of those listed in the table above, providers must submit a request for the prior authorization of the initial or replacement device and must include all of the documentation necessary to support the medical necessity of the blood pressure device.

2.2.7.2 Hospital-Grade Blood Pressure Devices

Hospital-grade blood pressure devices and their components are benefits of CCP in the home setting for self-monitoring when the equipment is prescribed by a physician. A hospital-grade blood pressure device includes memory for continuous recording, has an alarm system to notify the caregiver of abnormal readings, and is capable of frequent or continuous automatic blood pressure and heart rate monitoring with correction of motion artifact.

Documentation that supports medical necessity of the requested equipment, including the diagnosis, must be maintained in the client's medical record and is subject to retrospective review.

Refer to: Section 9.2.26.1, "Blood Pressure Monitoring" in the *Medical and Nursing Specialists, Physicians, and Physician Assistants Handbook* (*Vol. 2, Provider Handbooks*) for information about ambulatory blood pressure devices.

Providers must use procedure code A9279 with modifier U1 when billing for hospital-grade blood pressure devices.

Hospital-grade blood pressure devices that have been purchased are anticipated to last a minimum of three years and may be considered for replacement when three years have passed or when the equipment is not functional and not repairable.

For clients who are birth through 11 months of age, the rental or purchase of a hospital-grade blood pressure device is a benefit when documentation supports medical necessity and includes an explanation of why the client cannot use a standard automated blood pressure device.

For clients who are 12 months of age and older, the rental or purchase of a hospital-grade blood pressure device is a benefit on a case-by-case basis. Supporting documentation of medical necessity must be provided.

The following indications are recognized by Texas Medicaid for hospital-grade blood pressure devices:

- Hypotension
- Essential hypertension
- Hypertensive heart disease
- Hypertensive renal disease
- Myocardial infarction
- Pulmonary embolism
- Acute pulmonary heart disease
- Chronic pulmonary heart disease
- Valve disorders
- Cardiomyopathy

- Conduction disorders
- Cardiac dysrhythmias
- Heart failure
- Acute kidney failure
- Chronic kidney disease
- Hydronephrosis
- Vesicoureteral reflux with neuropathy
- Bulbus cordis anomalies and anomalies of cardiac septal closure
- Embolism
- Stenosis of either coronary artery stent or peripheral vascular stent

All rental costs of the hospital-grade blood pressure device apply toward the purchase price.

2.2.7.3 Components, Replacements, and Repairs

The following may be considered for reimbursement of blood pressure device replacement and repairs with prior authorization:

- Replacement of blood pressure cuffs (procedure code A4663)
- Replacement of other components (procedure code A4660)
- Repairs of the equipment (procedure code A4660)

2.2.7.4 Prior Authorization

Prior authorization is required for the rental or purchase of a hospital-grade blood pressure device. A determination will be made by HHSC or its designee as to whether the equipment will be rented, purchased, repaired, or modified based on the client's needs, duration of use, and age of the equipment. Repairs and modifications can only be performed on purchased equipment.

Documentation of medical necessity for the hospital-grade blood pressure device must support the client's need for self-monitoring and address why an automated blood pressure device will not meet the client's needs. The documentation must include:

- All pertinent diagnoses.
- Initial evaluation.
- Symptoms.
- Duration of symptoms.
- Any recent hospitalizations (within past 12 months).
- Comorbid conditions.
- How frequent or continuous self-monitoring will affect treatment.
- All pertinent laboratory and radiology results.
- Client's weight.
- A family or caregiver(s) who has an understanding of cause and effect and object permanence and who has agreed to accept the responsibility to be trained to use the hospital-grade monitor.

Prior authorization may be granted for a six-month rental period when the request is submitted with documentation of medical necessity supporting the client's need for self-monitoring and addressing why an automated blood pressure device will not meet the client's needs.

Recertification for an additional six-month period may be considered when the physician provides current documentation that supports the ongoing medical necessity for self-monitoring and confirms the client or family is compliant with its use.

A hospital-grade blood pressure device will not be considered for prior authorization of purchase until the client has completed a six-month trial period.

Purchase of a hospital-grade blood pressure device may be prior authorized when all of the following criteria are met:

- The client is 12 months of age or older.
- Documentation of medical necessity supports the client's need for ongoing self-monitoring and addresses why an automated blood pressure device will not meet the client's needs.

2.2.7.4.1 Components, Replacements, and Repairs

Replacement of blood pressure cuffs and other components may be considered for purchase with prior authorization and documentation of medical necessity that explains the need for the replacement.

Repair of equipment must be prior authorized when irreparable damage has occurred and documentation exists that supports the need for repair. Repair of equipment will be considered after the factory warranty has expired.

2.2.8 Bone Growth Stimulators

Internal and external bone growth (osteogenic) stimulators are a benefit of Texas Medicaid. Bone growth stimulators are a benefit for skeletally-mature individuals only.

> ***Note:*** *Bone growth stimulators that do not meet criteria for coverage through Title XIX Home Health Services may be considered through Texas Health Steps—Comprehensive Care Program (THSteps-CCP) for clients who are birth through 20 years of age.*

> ***Note:*** *For clients who are 21 years of age or older, requests for bone growth stimulators that do not meet the criteria through Title XIX Home Health Services may be considered under the Texas Medicaid Home Health—Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Exceptional Circumstances process.*

Electromagnetic bone growth stimulators promote healthy bone growth and repair by low intensity electrical stimulation. Electrical stimulation is provided by implanting low-voltage electrodes within the tissue surrounding the bone (internal) or by external placement of a device that transmits low-voltage currents through the soft tissue to the bone (external).

Ultrasonic bone growth stimulators promote healthy bone growth and repair through low-intensity, pulsed ultrasound waves.

A noninvasive electrical bone growth stimulator (procedure codes E0747 and E0748) and noninvasive ultrasound bone growth stimulator (procedure code E0760) are benefits of Texas Medicaid for DME providers when provided in the home setting. An invasive electrical bone growth stimulator (procedure code E0749) is a benefit of Texas Medicaid for freestanding and hospital-based ambulatory surgical centers when provided in the outpatient setting.

Electrical and ultrasonic bone growth stimulator devices for the treatment of orthopedic and neurosurgical conditions are a benefit for Texas Medicaid clients when the client experiences nonunion of a fracture, requires an adjunct to spinal fusion surgery, or experiences congenital pseudarthrosis.

Nonunion is defined as a fractured bone that fails to heal completely. Diagnosis of nonunion is established when a minimum of six months has passed since the injury and the fracture site shows no progressive signs of healing for a minimum of three months and is not complicated by a synovial pseudoarthrosis. Serial radiographs must confirm that fracture healing has ceased for three months or longer before the client begins treatment with the bone growth stimulator.

2.2.8.1 Professional Services

Procedure codes 20974, 20975, and 20979 are a benefit of Texas Medicaid and limited to one per six months. During the six-month limitation period, a subsequent fracture that meets the above criteria for a bone growth stimulator may be reimbursed after the submission of an appeal with documentation of medical necessity that demonstrates the criteria have been met.

2.2.8.2 Prior Authorization Criteria and Documentation Requirements for Bone Growth Stimulators

Procedure codes E0747, E0748, E0749, and E0760 require prior authorization. Additional bone growth stimulators may be considered for prior authorization with documentation that supports treatment of a different fracture.

For DME that requires prior authorization, an ordering physician who is familiar with the client must submit a completed, signed, and dated Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Ordering Form prior to requesting authorization. The ordering physician must maintain the complete original Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Ordering Form in the client's file. The DME provider must maintain a copy of the completed, original Home Health Services (Title XIX) DME/Medical Supplies Physician Ordering Form in the client's file.

To avoid unnecessary authorization denials, the physician must provide correct and complete information, including documentation for medical necessity of the equipment or supplies prescribed. Either provider may be asked for additional information to clarify or complete a request for the bone growth stimulator.

The ordering physician must maintain all original, completed documentation that supports medical necessity for a bone growth stimulator in the client's file. The DME provider also must maintain copies of documentation that supports medical necessity for a bone growth stimulator in the client's file. All documentation is subject to retrospective review.

2.2.8.2.1 Documentation for Noninvasive Electrical Bone Growth Stimulator

Documentation of one of the following is required for prior authorization of the external, electromagnetic bone stimulator (procedure code E0747):

- Nonunions, failed fusions, and congenital pseudarthrosis where there is no evidence of progression of healing for three or more months despite appropriate fracture care.
- Delayed unions of fractures of failed arthrodesis at high-risk sites (e.g., open or segmental tibial fractures, carpal navicular fractures).

Documentation must also indicate all the following:

- Serial radiographs have confirmed that no progressive signs of healing have occurred.
- The fractured gap is 1 cm or less.
- The individual can be adequately immobilized and is likely to comply with non-weight-bearing restrictions.

Documentation of one of the following is required for prior authorization of the external, electromagnetic bone stimulator for spinal application (procedure code E0748):

- One or more failed fusions.
- Grade II or worse spondylolisthesis.
- A multiple-level fusion with extensive bone grafting is required.
- Other risk factors for fusion failure are present, including gross obesity, degenerative osteoarthritis, severe spondylolisthesis, current smoking, previous fusion surgery, previous disc surgery, or gross instability.

2.2.8.2.2 Documentation for Invasive Electrical Bone Growth Stimulators

Documentation of one of the following is required for prior authorization of the surgically implanted bone growth stimulator (procedure code E0749):

- Nonunion of long bone fractures (i.e., clavicle, humerus, radius, ulna, femur, tibia, fibula, and metacarpal, metatarsal, carpal, and tarsal bones). Nonunion of long bone fractures is considered to exist only when serial radiographs have confirmed that fracture healing has ceased for three or more months prior to starting treatment with the bone growth stimulator. Serial radiographs must include a minimum of two sets of radiographs separated by a minimum of 90 days. Each set of radiographs must include multiple views of the fracture site.
- Failed fusion of a joint other than the spine when a minimum of three months has elapsed since the joint fusion was performed.
- Congenital pseudoarthrosis.
- An adjunct to spinal fusion surgery for patients at high risk for pseudoarthrosis due to previously failed spinal fusion at the same site.
- An adjunct to multiple-level fusion, which involves three or more vertebrae (e.g., L3-L5, L4-S1, etc).

2.2.8.2.3 Documentation for Ultrasound Bone Growth Stimulator

Documentation of the following is required for prior authorization of the external, low-intensity ultrasound bone growth stimulator device (procedure code E0760):

- Nonunion of a fracture, other than the skull or vertebrae, in a skeletally mature person, which is documented by a minimum of two sets of radiographs that were:
  - Obtained prior to starting treatment with the bone growth stimulator.
  - Separated by a minimum of 90 days.
  - Taken with multiple views of the fracture site.
  - Accompanied by a written interpretation by a physician who states that there has been no clinically significant evidence of fracture healing between the two set of radiographs.
- Evidence of all of the following:
  - The fracture is not tumor related.
  - The fracture is not fresh (less than seven days), closed or grade I open, tibial diaphyseal fractures, or closed fractures of the distal radius (Colles fracture).

2.2.8.3 Claims Reimbursement for Professional Services

Professional claims that are submitted for bone growth stimulation (procedure codes 20974, 20975, and 20979) may be reimbursed if the claim includes documentation of one of the following:

- Documentation of medical necessity as outlined in subsection 2.2.8.2, "Prior Authorization Criteria and Documentation Requirements for Bone Growth Stimulators" in this handbook.
- The corresponding bone growth stimulator device was submitted within 95 days of the date the bone growth stimulation procedure was performed.

The appropriate evaluation and management (E/M) procedure code must be billed for monitoring the effectiveness of bone growth stimulation treatment.

2.2.9 Breast Feeding Support Services

Refer to: Section 3, "Breastfeeding Support Services" in the *Gynecological, Obstetrics, and Family Planning Title XIX Services Handbook* (*Vol. 2, Provider Handbooks*) for information about breastfeeding support services.