

Policy Number:

Created: 08/11/11

Effective Date: 08/11/11

Revised: 4/17/12

Reviewed/No Updates: 1/28/13; 2/13/14; 2/12/15;
2/11/16; 2/9/17; 2/8/18; 2/14/19; 2/13/20

Policy

DME Replacement:

VCHCP covers DME replacement if the item has been in the member's possession for its whole "lifetime". The definition of lifetime varies depending on the type of equipment and would usually be determined by the manufacturer's published lifetime recommendation.

"Replacement" refers to the replacement of one item with an identical or nearly identical item (e.g. one manual wheelchair for another; not to switch from a manual wheelchair to an electric wheelchair or a motorized scooter).

If the patient wants a different kind of equipment, the physician must write a new order or prescription with an explanation of the medical need.

VCHCP will replace DME if:

1. the DME has been in use for more than the expected lifetime of the equipment (usually at least 5 yrs) and it has been determined that the equipment cannot be repaired or the cost to repair exceeds 60 percent of the cost of replacement.
2. the DME has been in continuous use by the member only
3. DME that fails prior to its life expectancy may be on manufacturer warranty and may be replaced by the manufacturer.
4. DME that sustains irreparable wear, damage or loss due to events beyond the members control may be considered for repair or replacement by the Plan upon the receipt of a doctor's letter documenting the medical need for replacement. If the cost of repair of the equipment exceeds 60 percent of the cost to replace the item, the item would be replaced. Repair or replacement in these circumstances would require 50% co-pay by the member.
5. DME which is damaged or lost other than as specified above will not be replaced by the Ventura County Health Care Plan.

VCHCP reserves the right to retain the old DME.

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The above policy is based on the following references:

1. 2010 Medicare Rights Center *Medicare Rights University*. Available at <http://www.medicarerights.org>
2. Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services *Medicare Coverage for Durable Medical Equipment and Other Devices*. Available at www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/11045
3. *Repair and Replacement of Durable Medical Equipment*. Available at www.nhia.org/members/documents/20090406DMERprnReplcmntJurisB.pdf

Procedures

A. Attachments : None

B. History:

Reviewers/Author: Albert Reeves, MD; Date: August 11, 2011
Committee Review: UM: August 11, 2011; QAC: August 23, 2011
Reviewed/No Changes: Albert Reeves, MD; Date: April 17, 2012
Committee Review: UM: May 10, 2012; QAC: May 22, 2012
Reviewed/No Changes: Albert Reeves, MD; Date: January 28, 2013
Committee Review: UM: February 14, 2013; QAC: February 26, 2013
Reviewed/No Changes: Catherine Sanders, MD
Committee Review: UM: February 13, 2014; QAC: February 25, 2014
Reviewed/No Changes: Catherine Sanders, MD
Committee Review: UM: February 12, 2015; QAC: February 24, 2015
Reviewed/No Updates by: Faustine Dela Cruz, RN & Catherine Sanders, MD
Committee Review: UM: February 11, 2016; QAC: February 23, 2016
Reviewed/No Updates by: Catherine Sanders, MD & Robert Sterling
Committee Review: UM: February 9, 2017; QAC: February 28, 2017
Reviewed/No Updates by: Catherine Sanders, MD & Robert Sterling
Committee Review: UM: February 8, 2018; QAC: February 27, 2018
Reviewed/No Updates by: Catherine Sanders, MD & Robert Sterling, MD
Committee Review: UM: February 14, 2019; QAC: February 26, 2019
Reviewed/No Updates by: Howard Taekman, MD & Robert Sterling, MD
Committee Review: UM: February 13, 2020; QAC: February 25, 2020



Medical Policy: DME Replacement

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Revision Date	Content Revised (Yes/No)	Contributors	Review/Revision Notes
2/9/17	No	Catherine Sanders, MD; Robert Sterling, MD	Annual Review
2/8/18	No	Catherine Sanders, MD; Robert Sterling, MD	Annual Review
2/14/19	No	Catherine Sanders, MD; Robert Sterling, MD	Annual Review
2/13/20	No	Howard Taekman, MD; Robert Sterling, MD	Annual Review