

## Assistive Technology Through Medicaid

### What is Assistive Technology?

**Assistive technology** (AT) is any device that helps you do everyday tasks more easily or helps you keep doing things you need to do. These devices can be tools, software, or other types of equipment.

**Durable Medical Equipment** (DME) is one kind of Assistive Technology.

### What is Durable Medical Equipment?

**Durable Medical Equipment** (DME) is any item used for a medical reason. You must:

- Need the DME for more than 1 year.
- Be sick, hurt, or have a disability that is helped by the DME.
- Need help doing things because of your disability.
- Be able to use the DME at home.

Medicaid will often pay for the cost of DME. But it will not always cover the cost of AT.

### How can I get Assistive Technology from Medicaid?

If you have Medicaid and need an AT device, follow these steps:

#### 1. **Talk to your doctor.**

- You may need help from your doctor to choose the right AT device.
- Ask your doctor to write a **Letter of Medical Necessity**. The letter explains why you need the AT device.

## 2. Find a vendor.

- A vendor is a company that provides AT devices.
- Contact Medicaid or your Managed Care Organization to find a vendor that Medicaid has approved.

## 3. Work with the vendor.

- Give the vendor your Letter of Medical Necessity.
- The vendor can help you pick the right AT device based on what your doctor says you need.
- The vendor will fill out an **authorization form**. It will send both the doctor's letter and the form to Medicaid.

## 4. Medicaid will decide whether to pay for the AT device.

- If Medicaid agrees to pay for the AT device, they will tell the vendor. The vendor will order the AT device.
- If Medicaid does not agree, you will get a **letter explaining why**.

## Can I appeal a denial from Medicaid?

Yes. If Medicaid does not agree to pay for your AT device, you can ask them to look at their decision again. This is called an appeal.

If Medicaid does not agree to pay, they will send you a letter. The letter should say why they won't pay. The letter will also tell you how to appeal. You can call Medicaid or your Managed Care Organization if the letter does not tell you how to appeal. There are **deadlines** to ask for an appeal, so read the letter carefully.

You can ask the AT vendor for help with the appeal. You can also talk to your doctor. They might give you more medical information to share with Medicaid that explains why you need the AT.