



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Health and Recovery Services Administration, P.O. Box 45502, Olympia, Washington 98504-5500

June 15, 2009

Changes to coverage for Medical Supplies

The State Legislature has directed DSHS to reduce spending in order to help balance the budget. This means that certain Medicaid services will now be limited or no longer be available.

When will this change happen?

- Beginning August 1, 2009

What won't be covered?

- For Adults these items won't be covered:
 - Bath or shower items,
 - Stockings, and
 - Auto blood pressure cuffs.
- DSHS will still pay for these supplies for children.

Is there an exception?

- Yes. You may have your doctor ask DSHS for an exception to this policy following the "exception-to-rule" process in the state's administrative code (WAC 388-501-0160).

What limits are changing?

- Incontinent supplies. This includes briefs only, or a combination of briefs and pull-ups.
 - For adults the limit will change to 200 per client per month
 - For children the limit will change to 300 per child per month.
- Non-sterile gloves will be limited to 200 per client per month
- Sterile gloves will be limited to 30 per month.
- Diabetic supplies (lancets and test strips)
 - Clients on insulin, there will be a limit of 100 per month
 - Clients not on insulin, the limit will be 100 every three months.

What if I need more than the limit?

- Client may request authorization for exceeding these service limits under a process known as "limitation extension" (WAC 388-501-0169). This applies when a specific client's needs would not be met under the new limit.

Can I ask for an administrative hearing for items that are not covered?

- No. Because the benefit change affects all Medicaid recipients, there is no right for an evidentiary hearing. An evidentiary hearing is a hearing where you can present your facts and testimony. In addition, because there is no evidentiary hearing there will be no continuation of benefits for any of these services as of August 1, 2009.

If you have questions please call our Medical Assistance Customer Service Center at 1-800-562-3022, available 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Additional information and the forms required to request an authorization for an exception or have more than the limit are available at the HRSA Web site at <http://maa.dshs.wa.gov>.