

All people deserve the same access to necessary medical equipment

We are advocating on behalf of our neighbors who live in skilled nursing and long term care facilities for the Virginia legislature to overturn a statute in law that specifically prohibits residents of skilled nursing and long term care facilities receiving complex rehabilitative and seating technology.

When a person with a chronic condition (like spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury, stroke, etc.) is prescribed appropriate equipment to meet their daily needs and resides in a facility including a skilled nursing or long term care facility, Virginia Medicaid will NOT pay for the prescribed equipment.

Studies overwhelmingly agree that equipment--such as custom wheelchairs prescribed by physicians--improves the physical health, mental health, and overall independence of people living with disabilities.

Every Virginian prescribed medically necessary equipment should have equal access to the technologies available to meet their health and safety needs regardless of their living arrangement.

For more information

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Who Pays for Specialized Equipment

Supplies, equipment, or appliances that are not covered include the following: ... DME for any hospital or nursing facility resident
- 12 VAC 30-50-165, Sec. D, Line 2



In the Facility:

Even when equipment is prescribed, residents are specifically exempted from the benefits of most state-funded durable medical equipment.



In the Home:

The commonwealth pays for the prescribed equipment beneficiaries need to live safely and independently with the best health outcomes

Why Some Individuals Need Specialized Equipment

Basic Equipment



- Limited durability
- Difficult to push independently
- Poor postural support leads to complications (including skin breakdown, injury, and acquired deformities)
- Limited mobility increases risk of obesity, high blood pressure and diabetes

Complex Rehab Technology



- Built for extended daily use
- Prescribed to meet individual's unique medical needs
- Increases independence and activity level
- Less dependence on facility support staff
- Promotes better outcomes for residents' mental and physical health

How Everyone Benefits from Specialized Equipment



- Reduced costs to healthcare system for preventable medical issues
- Improved independence and quality of life for people with disabilities
- Decreased burden of care for staff in skilled nursing and long term care facilities