

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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How Virginia Pays for Specialized Equipment



In the Home:

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



In the Facility:

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

Improved Outcomes. Reduced Cost of Care.

By providing a life-improving wheelchair providers can also reduce the cost of health care required by these individuals.

44.4%

Incidence of pressure injuries

\$86,500

Average cost of single pressure injury

\$5,500

Average cost of customized wheelchair

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

Support Life-saving Legislation

H.B. 241 (Adams)

House Budget
Amendment: Item
304#40H

Senate Budget
Amendment: Item
304#10S

Did You Know...

A statute in state law specifically prohibits people living in nursing facilities in Virginia from receiving medically necessary wheelchairs?

Laura does

I'm Laura Lindsey, a Virginian living with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). I live in a nursing facility and cannot get a new wheelchair even though my current chair is not working right.

I came to live in a nursing home 3 years ago, and brought the chair I previously had. Now it's 7 years old and the battery is running out, even though I charge it 3-4 times a day.

I have to carry the charger with me when I go to the doctor; with my physical limitations, it's hard to lug that around and find charger space.

The chair sometimes stops in mid motion; once the chair stopped working while I was in a reclined position to relieve pressure, and they had to bring in a mechanical lift to get me out of the chair because it wouldn't go down.

Now I'm afraid to use it.

I've been in 2 nursing facilities. It was painful for me to watch my friends who were unable to get out of bed because their wheelchairs weren't working. Some of them even developed bed sores.



Please support HB241 (Adams) and its accompanying budget amendment, Item 304#40H. Please support 304#10S budget amendment (Barker)