Durable Medical Equipment

Policy
Mass General Brigham Health Plan reimburses participating providers/suppliers for durable medical equipment (DME) when medically necessary, for the treatment of an injury or illness in order to improve or stabilize the member’s condition or to improve functioning.

Policy Definition
Durable medical equipment (DME) is equipment that can withstand repeated use, is primarily and customarily used to serve a medical purpose, generally not useful in the absence of illness or injury, appropriate for use in the home or inpatient setting and not intended for sport-related or vocational purposes. (Refer to the “DME Terminology” section for additional definitions.)

Equipment must be:
- Medically necessary
- Ordered by a participating Mass General Brigham Health Plan provider/supplier
- Ordered to address a specific diagnosis

DME includes:
- Prosthetic devices, defined as those used to replace the function of a missing body part, and those that are designed to be fitted to the member’s body as an external substitute
- Most orthotic devices, defined as those used to support a weakened part of the member’s body
- Certain medical and surgical supplies defined as disposable or reusable items that generally do not contain mechanical parts commonly found in medical equipment.

Prerequisites
Applicable referral, notification and authorization policies and procedures apply
- An order for each item billed must be signed and dated by the treating provider/supplier and made available upon request.
- A written, signed and dated order must be received by the DME provider/supplier before a claim is submitted.
Please reference Mass General Brigham Health Plan’s Prior Authorization List for Durable Medical Equipment (DME), Medical Supplies, Oxygen Related Equipment, Orthotics and Prosthetics, Hearing Aids for authorization requirements.

Quantity limits/unit limits apply; please reference CMS or MassHealth guidelines for more details on unit limits.

**Member Cost-Sharing**

Member liability amounts may include, but are not limited to, copayments, deductible, and/or co-insurance, and will be applied dependent upon the member’s benefit plan. Coverage of DME is based on the line of business unless otherwise specified within the medical policy(s).

**Mass General Brigham Health Plan Reimburses**

- Least costly DME item that meets the member’s needs
- Rental fees to a maximum cap of the purchase price
- Replacement parts for DME that is owned by the member
- Therapeutic shoes for members who have diabetic foot disease and/or peripheral vascular disease, as diagnosed by a participating provider/supplier

Reimbursement includes but is not limited to:

- Purchase or rental; Mass General Brigham Health Plan determines whether it is appropriate to purchase or rent equipment for members
- Replacement part(s) or repairs when the DME is no longer under warranty

Providers/suppliers are reimbursed according to the plan’s network provider/supplier reimbursement or contracted rates. Claims are subject to payment edits that are updated at regular intervals.

**Mass General Brigham Health Plan Does Not Reimburse**

- Automatic dispensing of supplies, accessories, or equipment
- Backup or standby equipment, including equipment repair or replacement
- Items supplied based on member preferences
- Modifications made to the home to suit members need, including ramps
- Sales tax, shipping, and/or handling fees applicable by state
Billing Guidelines and Documentation

- Bill the most current and up-to-date industry standard procedure and diagnosis codes
- Submit the modifier that will impact reimbursement in the first modifier field, followed by informational modifiers

Modifiers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modifier</th>
<th>Descriptor</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NU</td>
<td>New equipment</td>
<td>Submit with HCPCS DME procedure to indicate a purchase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RR</td>
<td>Rental equipment</td>
<td>Submit with HCPCS DME procedure code to indicate a rental</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BO</td>
<td>Orally administered nutrition, not by feeding tube</td>
<td>Submit with oral enteral formula claims</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA</td>
<td>Replacement of a DME, orthotic or prosthetic item</td>
<td>Submit with HCPCS DME procedure code to indicate replacement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RB</td>
<td>Replacement of a part of DME, orthotic or prosthetic item furnished as a repair</td>
<td>Submit with HCPCS DME procedure code to indicate replacement of a part as a repair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UE</td>
<td>Used durable medical equipment</td>
<td>Submit with HCPCS DME procedure code to indicate used equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KH</td>
<td>DMEPOS item, initial claim, purchase or first month rental</td>
<td>Submit with HCPCS DME procedure code, for Medicaid members, to indicate first month rental</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KI</td>
<td>DMEPOS item, 2nd or 3rd month rental</td>
<td>Submit with HCPCS DME procedure code, for Medicaid members, to indicate 2nd and 3rd months rental</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KJ</td>
<td>DMEPOS item, parenteral enteral nutrition (PEN) pump or capped rental, months 4 to 15</td>
<td>Submit with HCPCS DME procedure code, for Medicaid members, to indicate 4 to 15 months rental</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please reference procedure codes from the current CPT, HCPCS Level II, and ICD-10-CM manuals, as recommended by the American Medical Association (AMA), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and the American Hospital Association. CMS and the AMA revise HIPAA medical codes on a pre-determined basis, including changes to CPT, HCPCS, and ICD-10 codes and definitions. Please refer to the CMS or CPT guidelines for requisite modifier usage when reporting services. The absence or presence of a modifier may result in differential claim payment or denial.
Mass General Brigham Health Plan reviews claims to determine eligibility for payment. Services considered incidental, mutually exclusive, integral to the primary service rendered, or part of a global allowance, are not eligible for separate reimbursement. Please refer to Coding Provider Payment Guidelines for more information.

All claims are subject to audit services and medical records may be requested from the provider/supplier.

**Breast Pump Supplies**

Members are eligible to receive breast pump replacement parts 90 days after the purchase of the breast pump, and again every 60 days thereafter. While replacement parts represented by codes A4281, A4282, A4284, and A4826 have a limit of one per three months (purchase only), replacement bottles (A4285) and replacement caps for the replacement bottle (A4283) do not have a quantity limit.

As of January 1, 2024, breast milk storage bag HCPCS K1005 has been replaced with HCPCS A4287. Claims billed with K1005 after this date will be denied.

**Mass Health ACO Members**

Mass General Brigham Health Plan ACO pays per MassHealth payment methodologies. Claims billed with codes that require invoice pricing shall deny, and providers/suppliers are required to submit an invoice for payment.

When billing for repairs to backup wheelchairs for MassHealth members, please refer to MassHealth Administrative Bulletin 22-14

For additional information, please see the following MassHealth Links:

- MassHealth 101 CMR 322.00: Durable medical equipment, oxygen and respiratory therapy equipment
- MassHealth Durable Medical Equipment and Oxygen Payment and Coverage Guideline Tool (v.41.8)

**Related Mass General Brigham Health Plan Policies**

Enteral Formulae Parenteral Nutritional Solutions
Hearing Aids Payment Policy
Home Infusion Including Enteral Nutrition
Sleep Studies Payment Policy
Absorbent Products for Incontinence Medical Policy
Bone Growth Stimulator Medical Policy
Continuous Glucose Monitors Medical Policy
Durable Medical Equipment Medical Policy
Enteral Nutrition Formulas and Supplements Medical Policy
Hearing Devices Medical Policy
Insulin Pumps Medical Policy
Prostheses – Lower Limb Medical Policy
Prostheses – Upper Limb Medical Policy

References

MassHealth Members
  • Download 101 CMR 322
  • 101 CMR 322 related and supporting documents
Reimbursable codes: Subchapter 6
DME and Oxygen related items; unit limitations: MassHealth DME and OXY Payment and Coverage Guideline Tool (V.41.5)
Prosthetics and Orthotics related items; unit limitations: MassHealth Orthotics and Prosthetics Payment and Coverage Guideline Tool

Commercial and Medicare Advantage members
Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 20 - Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS)
Provider Manual: Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 20 - Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS)

Publication History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic: Durable Medical Equipment</th>
<th>Owner: Network Management</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 25, 2016</td>
<td>Original documentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1, 2019</td>
<td>Document restructure; codes, code descriptor and, references updated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 29, 2022</td>
<td>Administrative edits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This document is designed for informational purposes only. Claims payment is subject to member eligibility and benefits on the date of service, coordination of benefits, referral/authorization/notification and utilization management guidelines when applicable, adherence to plan policies and procedures, claims editing logic, and provider contractual agreement. In the event of a conflict between this payment guideline and the provider’s agreement, the terms and conditions of the provider’s agreement shall prevail. Payment policies are intended to assist providers in obtaining Mass General Brigham Health Plan’s payment information. Payment policy determines the rationale by which a submitted claim for service is processed and paid. Payment policy formulation takes into consideration a variety of factors including: the terms of the participating providers’ contract(s); scope of benefits included in a given member’s benefit plan; clinical rationale, industry-standard procedure code edits, and industry-standard coding conventions.