



COMMISSIONER
Adelaide Horn

March 19, 2009

To: Community Based Alternatives (CBA) Providers

Subject: Information Letter No. 09-35
Lift chairs in CBA

The purpose of this letter is to clarify and simplify procedures for obtaining lift chairs for CBA consumers.

Medicare Process

Medicare only reimburses the lift mechanism on lift chairs. To qualify for Medicare reimbursement for the lift mechanism, an individual must meet **ALL** of the following criteria:

- The individual must have severe arthritis of the hip or knee or have a severe neuromuscular disease.
- The seat lift mechanism must be a part of the physician's course of treatment and be prescribed to effect improvement, or arrest or retard deterioration in the individual's condition.
- The individual must be completely incapable of standing up from any chair in his/her home. Once standing, the individual must have the ability to ambulate.

If an individual satisfies **ALL** of the Medicare criteria, CBA will reimburse only the cost of the chair. The home and community support services agency (HCSSA) will request the supplier to deliver the entire lift chair and bill Medicare for the lift mechanism. To get reimbursed, the HCSSA notifies the caseworker that the lift chair is being delivered.

CBA Process

If the individual fails to meet the Medicare criteria, CBA will pay for the entire lift chair without a denial from Medicare if the following criteria are met:

- the HCSSA submits a prescription /statement by the physician certifying the need for the lift chair, stating the individual has difficulty or is incapable of getting up from a chair; and
- once standing, the individual has the ability to ambulate or transfer with or without assistance.

In instances where an individual does not meet the above requirements, the HCSSA nurse should state in the comments section of Form 3671-F that the chair is not medically necessary.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact CBA Program Specialist at (512) 438-3015.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

Michelle Dionne-Vahalik
Director
Community Services

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