

SECTION IV. 6. Assistive Devices & Home Modifications

A. Definition

1. An “Assistive Device” is defined as an item, whether acquired commercially or off the shelf, which is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities. Such devices are intended to benefit the individual’s identified goals for maintaining their health, safety, wellbeing and independence at home.

2. A “Home Modification” is defined as a physical adaptation to the home which is necessary to ensure the health, safety, wellbeing, accessibility and independence of the individual in the home. The adaptation may include, but is not limited to ramps, door widening, grab-bars and modification of bathroom facilities, etc. for accessibility.

3. “Assistive Technology” is defined as any item, piece of equipment or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain or improve functional abilities. Assistive technology devices required by individuals with disabilities include hardware and software as well as stand-alone devices.

B. Service Standards

Assistive Devices and Home Modifications must comply with the following:

1. All applicable medical and manufacturing standards.
2. All applicable State and local building codes.
3. All applicable Federal and State ADA Standards for building design.

C. Provider Types

The following Case Management provider types are approved to bill for Assistive Devices and Home Modifications:

1. Area Agencies on Aging
2. Home Health Agencies (*as defined by State statute*)

D. Procedure

All individuals receiving services in a home-based option (excludes AFC) are allowed to use assistive device and home modification funds, up to the current rate on file per calendar year. Through the process of person-centered planning, case managers shall work with the individual to identify the required assistive device, home modifications or assistive technology (AD/HM/AT) that will continue to benefit the individual's goals for maintaining their health, safety, wellbeing and independence at home. The Case Manager will then arrange for the purchase and payment of the AD/HM/AT that meets the needs/goals of the individual and the service definitions.

Prior to purchasing an item with AD/HM funds the Case Manager shall:

1. Ensure the item **meets the definition** of an assistive device, home modification or assistive technology.
2. Ensure the assistive device, home modifications and assistive technology are not otherwise available to the individual through Medicare, Medicaid, other insurance or other sources of funding. The case manager must check for insurance coverage **first** and document this step has been completed in the case notes.
3. Ensure when necessary, qualified consultants (such as Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists or others) have been consulted to assess for and properly identify the appropriate devices or home modifications to meet the individual needs.
4. Ensure that home modifications are done by individuals/companies that work in accordance with the Federal/State ADA standards for accessible design and State and local building codes.
5. Ensure clear documentation in the case management notes that the AD/HM/AT will meet the individual's goal for maintaining or improving their health, safety, wellbeing and independence at home.
6. Ensure clear documentation in the case management notes of the outcome of how the AD/HM has met the individual's goal.
7. Send the individual a denial letter with DAIL appeal rights when it is determined that an assistive device, home modification or assistive technology purchase is not able to be purchased because it does not meet the definition or support the individual's goals.

E. Limitations on Assistive Devices and Home Modifications

1. Expenditures for assistive devices, home modifications and assistive technology are not to exceed the rate on file per calendar year.
2. Only assistive devices, assistive technology and home modifications that are not covered by Medicare, Medicaid, other insurance or other sources of funding can be purchased.
3. Funds may not be used to purchase assistive devices, assistive technology or home modifications that are not of direct benefit to the individual's identified goals/needs, health, wellbeing, safety, accessibility and independence at home.
4. Assistive Technology does not include a medical device that is surgically implanted, or the replacement of such device.
5. Funds may never be used to purchase any items that are illegal.
6. Funds may not be used to purchase Assistive devices and home modification in an Adult Family Care home setting.
7. All purchases are subject to quality review.