

Authorization Guide for Environmental Accessibility Adaptations (Home Modifications)

Environmental Accessibility Adaptations (EAAs, also known as Home Modifications) are physical home modifications that are necessary to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of the individual or enable the individual to function with greater independence in the home, without which the member would require institutionalization.

The services are available in a home that is owned, rented, leased or occupied by the member.

Eligibility	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals at risk for institutionalization in a nursing facility. 	
Required documentation	Restrictions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An order requesting equipment from the member's current primary care physician or other health professional specifying the requested equipment or service as well as documentation from the provider of the equipment or service describing how the equipment or service meets the medical needs of the member, including any supporting documentation describing the efficacy of the equipment where appropriate. Brochures will suffice in showing the purpose and efficacy of the equipment; however, a brief written evaluation specific to the member describing how and why the equipment or service meets the needs of the member. A physical or occupational therapy evaluation and report to evaluate the medical necessity of the requested equipment or service unless the managed care plan determines it is appropriate to approve without an evaluation. This should typically come from an entity with no connection to the provider of the requested equipment or service. The physical or occupational therapy evaluation and report should contain at least the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An evaluation of the member and the current equipment needs specific to the member, describing how/why the current equipment does not meet the needs of the member. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member is part of a duplicative home remediation program. Must be conducted in accordance with applicable state and local building codes. May include finishing (e.g., drywall and painting) to return the home to a habitable condition, but does not include aesthetic embellishments. Limited to those that are of direct medical or remedial benefit to the member and excludes adaptations or improvements that are of general utility to the household. Adaptations that add to the total square footage of the home are excluded except when necessary to complete an adaptation (e.g., to improve entrance/egress to a residence or to configure a bathroom to accommodate a wheelchair). The assessment and authorization for EAAs must take place within a 90-day time frame beginning with the request for the EAA, unless more time is required to receive documentation of homeowner consent, or the individual receiving the service requests a longer time frame. Another state plan service, such as Durable Medical Equipment, is available and would accomplish the same goals of independence and avoiding institutional placement, that service should be used. EAAs must be conducted in accordance with applicable state and local building codes.

Required documentation, continued	Restrictions, continued
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An evaluation of the requested equipment or service that includes a description of how/why it is necessary for the member and reduces the risk of institutionalization. This should also include information on the ability of the member and/or the primary caregiver to learn about and appropriately use any requested item. ○ A description of similar equipment used either currently or in the past that has demonstrated to be inadequate for the member and a description of the inadequacy. ● If possible, a minimum of two bids from appropriate providers of the requested service, which itemize the services, cost, labor, and applicable warranties: and ● Proof that a home visit has been conducted to determine the suitability of requested equipment or service. 	
For permanent adaptations or installations	Examples of environmental accessibility adaptations:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide the owner and member with written documentation stating that the modifications are permanent and that the state is not responsible for maintenance or repair of any modification or for removal of any modification if the member ceases to reside at the residence. ● For a home that is not owned by the member, the member must provide written consent from the owner for physical adaptations to the home or for equipment that is physically installed in the home (e.g., grab bars, chair lifts, etc.). ● All EAAs that are physical adaptations to a residence must be performed by an individual holding a California Contractor's License except for a PERS installation, which may be performed in accordance with the system's installation requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ramps and grab bars to assist members in accessing the home. ● Doorway widening for members who require a wheelchair. ● Stair lifts. ● Making a bathroom and shower wheelchair accessible (e.g., constructing a roll-in shower). ● Installation of specialized electric and plumbing systems that are necessary to accommodate the medical equipment and supplies of the member. ● Installation and testing of a Personal Emergency Response System (PERS) for members who are alone for significant parts of the day without a caregiver and who otherwise require routine supervision (including monthly service costs as needed). ● Other interventions identified to be medically appropriate and cost effective.

Total lifetime maximum: \$7,500

The only exception to the \$7,500 total maximum is if the member's place of residence changes or member's condition has changed so significantly that additional modifications are necessary to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of the member, or are necessary to enable the member to function with greater independence in the home and avoid institutionalization or hospitalization.

Code:

S5165 U6- Home modifications; per service

U1 = deposit

Unit of Service:

Cap

State services to be avoided:

State plan services to be avoided include but are not limited to nursing facility services, inpatient and outpatient hospital services, emergency department services and emergency transport services.

Allowable providers:

Providers must have experience and expertise with providing these unique services.¹

¹**Examples of possible providers:** area agencies on aging, local health departments, community-based providers and organizations.