



May 20, 2020

Web Announcement 2201

Reminders for Provider Type 33 (Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics and Supplies): Communication Devices Must Meet Basic Needs as Stated in Nevada Medicaid Policy

Please refer to [Medicaid Services Manual \(MSM\) Chapter 1300 DME, Disposable Supplies and Supplements Appendix B Communication Devices](#) for policy regarding Speech Generating Devices (SGD) (also known as Augmentative Communication Device (ACD) or Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Devices)). All SGD qualifications, forms and documentation requirements and miscellaneous policy statements in Chapter 1300 are applicable and must be followed.

Nevada Medicaid covers standard medical equipment that meets the basic medical need of the recipient. The equipment could include computers, personal digital assistants (PDAs), tablets or other devices that are dedicated as an SGD/AAC. Deluxe equipment will not be authorized when it is determined that a standard model will meet the basic medical needs of the recipient. The recipient must have a medical need for each component of the item(s) requested, including accessory items and features not included in the standard models of the product.

It is prohibited per policy for DME providers and other signing parties (such as a Speech Language Pathologist - SLP) to have a relationship with each other. There can, however, be an already established relationship between the recipient and the SLP such as through school or speech therapy services, which is preferable for a complete and thorough evaluation.

Special points of extra interest are listed below:

- A formal written evaluation of the recipient's cognitive and communication abilities by the SLP is required.
- Other forms of treatment have been considered and ruled out before recommending SGDs.
- It is imperative the recipient's cognitive and physical abilities are such as to be able to effectively use the selected device and any accessories to communicate.
- SLP evaluations and recommendations should consider the recipient's needs both at present and over the useful lifespan of the device being recommended.

Please note: If incorrect equipment is requested, provided and paid for, it is the provider's responsibility to pick up the equipment and reimburse Nevada Medicaid. Then, if appropriate and medically necessary, the process for the correct new piece of equipment can be started.

Additional areas of interest are listed throughout MSM Chapter 1300, [MSM Chapter 100 Medicaid Programs](#) and [MSM Chapter 3300 Program Integrity](#).