



HEALTH SYSTEMS DIVISION

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Date: September 10, 2020  
From: Dana Hittle, Deputy Medicaid Director  
To: Coordinated Care Organizations  
Re: Replacement Durable Medical Equipment (DME), Supplies, and Prescription Drugs in Event of Natural Disasters

As a result of the current fires burning throughout Oregon, thousands of Oregonians are displaced and many have lost their homes, property, pets and livestock. Thousands more are at risk of loss and displacement.

OHA has learned that vulnerable Oregon Health Plan (OHP) members have had to leave their homes without critical pieces of DME, supplies, and prescription drugs.

This guidance directs CCOs to ensure members have suitable replacements for DME, supplies, or prescriptions drugs as soon as possible when a need is identified. Coverage of replacement DME, supplies, and prescription drugs is a CCO responsibility based on the following:

- Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) [410-141-3501 Administration of Oregon Integrated and Coordinated Health Care Delivery System Regulation; Rule Precedence](#), specifically OAR 410-135-3501(2)(c) which requires CCOs to comply with any applicable provider rules in OAR Chapter 410, based on the category of health service;
- Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics Orthotics and Supplies (DMEPOS) [OAR 410-122-0184\(1\)\(c\)\(C\)](#), which states:
  - (1) For indications and limitations of coverage and medical appropriateness, the Division may cover reasonable and necessary repairs, servicing, and replacement of medically appropriate, covered durable medical equipment, prosthetics, and orthotics, including those items purchased or in use before the client enrolled with the Division:
  - (c) Replacement refers to the provision of an identical or nearly identical item:
  - (C) Equipment that the client owns or is a capped rental item may be replaced in cases of loss or irreparable damage. Irreparable damage refers to a specific accident or to a natural disaster. Irreparable wear refers to deterioration sustained from day-to-day usage over time and a specific event cannot be identified. Replacement of equipment due to irreparable wear takes into consideration the reasonable useful lifetime of the equipment; and:

- OAR [410-121-0060 How to Get Prior Authorization for Drugs](#) (4) Emergency Need: The Pharmacist may request an emergent or urgent dispensing from the Pharmacy Benefits Manager (PBM) when the client is eligible for covered fee-for-service drug prescriptions.
  - (a) Clients who do not have a PA pending may receive an emergency dispensing for a 96-hour supply.
  - (b) Clients who do have a PA pending may receive an emergency dispensing up to a seven-day supply.

CCOs should make every effort to immediately provide this assistance to its enrolled OHP members. As this situation is constantly changing, we are establishing processes between the Department of Human Services, Aging and People with Disabilities and Office of Developmental Disabilities case management entities and CCO Account Representatives to contact CCOs directly as they become aware of these situations.

Please contact your assigned CCO Account Representative with questions.

OHA greatly appreciates the efforts CCOs are making to provide resources to assist and support their members, providers, staff, and broader communities affected by the fires.

Thank you for your continued support of the Oregon Health Plan and OHP members during these difficult times.