

OAR 410-122-XXXX Special Needs Car Seats

- 1) Special needs car seats are used to provide safe transportation to individuals with health care needs such as orthopedic or medical needs that cannot be met using conventional car seats for safe travel in a vehicle.
- 2) A special needs car seat may be covered by the Division when a conventional car seat cannot be used because the client has a significant physical, neurological, or orthopedic condition including one or more of the following (list not all-inclusive):
 - a. Inability to maintain an unsupported sitting position independently;
 - b. Significant head and trunk instability;
 - c. Significant hypotonicity, hypertonicity, spasticity or muscle spasm which result in uncontrollable movement and position changes;
 - d. Orthopedic disease processes resulting in significant bony fragility;
 - e. Significant contractures that would result in an inability to perform postural corrections due to vehicle motion;
 - f. Severe seizure activity that results in uncontrollable movement and position change; or
 - g. Orthopedic condition, such as a curvature of the spine, which interferes with proper positioning; and
- 3) Prior Authorization is required with the following documentation:
 - a. Clinical documentation supporting that the special needs car seat requested is medically appropriate and the least costly alternative that will meet the client's medical needs;
 - b. An evaluation by a physical therapist or occupational therapist which includes all of the following:
 - i. The medical condition for which the special needs car seat is needed and why a conventional car seat will not meet the medical needs of the client;
 - ii. Description of what is currently being used and why it is no longer meeting the medical needs of the client;
 - iii. Other interventions that have been tried and failed (e.g., conventional car seats, vests, harnesses);
 - iv. Less costly car seats that were considered and why they were ruled out; and
 - v. A signed attestation from the prescribing practitioner supporting the recommended special needs car seat;
 - c. Client's current height and weight, and the weight capacity and growth potential for the requested special needs car seat;
 - d. Brand name and model number of the special needs car seat requested; and
 - e. Manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP).
- 4) The practitioner's order and medical justification must be kept on file by the DME supplier;
- 5) Special needs car seats do not require PDAC coding verification;
- 6) HCPCS code E1399 shall be used for billing special needs car seats.

Commented [JK1]: Note: special consideration can be made for behavioral issues (i.e., escaping car seat, etc.) however, there are other less costly alternatives than special needs car seats for many of these situations (conventional car seat with buckle guard, vests, harnesses)