

Quick Reference: Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS)



What is DMEPOS?

Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) refers to medical devices, equipment, and supplies that are designed to aid in the treatment, recovery, or management of medical conditions or disabilities. DMEPOS can help people to be more independent in their daily living activities. They can be used in the home and community. DMEPOS are typically prescribed by a health care provider, and one must meet specific criteria related to medical conditions to obtain them.

What types of things are covered?

- Wheelchairs
- Walkers
- Canes
- Hospital beds
- Oxygen equipment
- Hoyer Lift
- Artificial limbs (prosthetics)
- Home dialysis equipment
- Incontinence supplies, including pads or briefs
- Braces and orthoses, including ankle-foot orthoses
- Communication devices
- Medical alert devices and supplies, such as emergency response systems
- Glucose monitoring equipment
- CPAP machines

How does a person get DMEPOS or supplies?

A deficit, such as balance, lack of coordination, or weakness, can be identified as affecting an individual's mobility and daily activities such as walking, bathing, eating. These deficits are typically identified by a skilled licensed professional such as a physician, nurse, or therapist; but a beneficiary, their support staff or family members can also identify an issue and report it to their case manager or physician. Once a deficit is identified, an authorization form (719a form, available [online](#)) along with a physician's order is submitted to DHCF's agent for approval for needed equipment or supplies.

Who is eligible for DMEPOS?

Any Individual that is enrolled in a District of Columbia Medicaid program, who demonstrates a need for assistance to be safer and more independent in their home or the community may qualify for covered DMEPOS. Once the DMEPOS is received and used by the beneficiary, an individual can improve:

- Functional mobility (transfers, bed mobility and ambulation)
- Ability to perform daily activities (bathing, grooming, feeding, meal preparation)
- Communication (improved ability to express and understand)

For more information about receiving DMEPOS, you can contact a health care provider to learn more. If you have a physician you see regularly, contact your doctor. If you are enrolled in the Dual Choice program, PACE, or the EPD Waiver program, contact your case manager to learn about how you can access DMEPOS. You may also call the Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) at 202-442-5988 for more information.