

## The Department of Vermont Health Access Clinical Criteria

**Subject:** : Transfer boards and other non-lift transfer devices

**Last Review:** May 5, 2023\*

**Past Revisions:** September 3, 2021, January 28, 2020, June 6, 2016, August 26, 2015, October 30, 2014, June 5, 2013, June 4, 2012, June 28, 2011, and 2004

**\*Please note: Most current content changes will be highlighted in yellow.**

### Description of Service or Procedure

A transfer device enables a member to move in a controlled manner, without lifting, between two adjacent surfaces, for example from bed to chair, or bed to commode, or chair to commode. A transfer device is not meant to transport a member (for example, from one room to another).

Note: Lifts are a specific category of transfer device, which elevates an individual off of one surface and on to another. DVHA follows Interqual criteria for power lifts. Interqual criteria can be accessed by logging into the Vermont Medicaid Portal at <https://vtmedicaid.com/secure/logon.do>

### Disclaimer

Coverage is limited to that outlined in Medicaid Rule or Health Care Administrative Rules that pertains to the member's aid category. Prior Authorization (PA) is only valid if the member is eligible for the applicable item or service on the date of service.

### Medicaid Rule

Medicaid and Health Care Administrative Rules can be found at <https://humanservices.vermont.gov/rules-policies/health-care-rules/health-care-administrative-rules-hcar/adopted-rules>

- 7102.2 Prior Authorization Determination
- 4.101 Medical Necessity for Covered Services
- 4.104 Medicaid Non-Covered Services
- 4.209 Durable Medical Equipment
- 4.106 Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) Services



## Coverage Position

Transfer devices may be covered for members:

- When the device is prescribed by a licensed medical provider, enrolled in the Vermont Medicaid program, operating within their scope of practice as described on the Vermont Office of Professional Regulation's website\*, Statute, or Rule who is knowledgeable regarding transfer devices, and who provides medical care to the member AND
- When the clinical criteria below are met.

\* Vermont's Office of Professional Regulation's website: <https://sos.vermont.gov/opr/>

## Coverage Criteria

A transfer device may be covered for members who:

- Have a medical condition that impairs the ability to transfer from one surface to another AND
- Have been evaluated for the most appropriate transfer techniques and devices by a physical or occupational therapist, or a physician or advanced practice medical provider knowledgeable in transfer techniques and devices AND
- The device has been documented as fitting into the member's home environment AND
- The device prescribed maximizes member independence and safety AND
- The device maximizes the preservation of skin integrity AND
- The member and/or caregivers have been fully trained in the proper technique for use and care of the device.

For devices that require prior authorization (see <http://vtmedicaid.com/#!/feeSchedule>) a Physical or Occupational Therapist home assessment is required to determine the correct device, given the member's medical condition, mobility status, and the physical plant of the home. A trial or close simulation of the device is required to ensure that the device will meet the medical needs of the member. Members may also require instruction from a physical or occupational therapist in techniques to use and care for the device properly.

Providers are encouraged to access the DVHA Health Learn presentation titled "Obtaining Lift And Transfer Devices For Vermont Medicaid Members" available at <https://catalog.vthl.org/product?catalog=1674235176801DK>. Vermont Health Learn is an educational e-learning platform partnership between OneCare Vermont and State of Vermont Departments and groups including the Department of Vermont Health Access, Vermont Department of Health, and Blueprint.

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT): Vermont Medicaid will provide comprehensive services and furnish all Medicaid coverable, appropriate, and medically necessary services needed to correct and ameliorate health conditions for Medicaid members under age 21.

Please note, Vermont Medicaid Clinical Criteria is reviewed based on available literature, evidence-based guidelines/standards, Medicaid rule and policy, and Medicare coverage determinations that may be appropriate to incorporate when applicable.

## **Clinical criteria for repeat service or procedure**

Please refer to the DME Limitations list at <http://vtmedicaid.com/#/resources> regarding service quantity guidance. Repeat services are covered when the device requires replacement before the DME Limitation guidance timeframe, for the following reasons:

- The device has been outgrown OR
- The device no longer meets the medical needs of the member OR
- The device is no longer functional through normal wear and tear, or the useful lifetime has been reached (Medicaid HCAR Rule 4.209.4).
- The cost of repairing the device is greater than 50% of the replacement cost.

## **Type of service or procedure covered**

Transfer devices including, but not limited to, slide boards, slide sheets or tubes, swivel discs, partial standing and standing transfer devices,

## **Type of service or procedure not covered (this list may not be all inclusive)**

- Duplicate devices for multiple bathrooms are not covered.
- Any device that requires a home modification is not covered.

## **Coding guidelines**

- See the Medicaid Portal at <http://vtmedicaid.com/#/feeSchedule> for fee schedules, code coverage, and applicable requirements.

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