

PROVIDER BULLETIN NO. 08-14

May 1, 2008

TO: Medicaid Providers

FROM: Vivianne M. Chaumont, Director
Division of Medicaid & Long-Term Care

RE: Reimbursement for wheelchairs provided to clients residing in nursing facilities pilot project (Provider Bulletin No. 05-07) is rescinded immediately

Effective May 1, 2008, Medicaid rescinds the April 2005 pilot plan whereby reimbursement for non-powered wheelchairs (K0002-K-0009) that had been prior-authorized for clients residing in nursing facilities was limited to rental rather than payment.

This pilot plan did not meet its goal of reducing Medicaid costs for wheelchairs in nursing facilities.

Effective May 1, 2008, Medicaid returns to purchase, rather than rental, for clients residing in nursing facilities who require custom wheelchairs. This was the policy in effect prior to initiation of the pilot project.

Wheelchairs under rental agreement for clients residing in nursing facilities revert to the same policy governing other rentals as stated in 471 NAC 7-010.09B Rental Option to Purchase. The provider shall cease all billing for rental when rental payments reach the provider's purchase price or after 12 monthly rental payments, whichever occurs first. Upon conversion to purchase, the item becomes the property of the client. Provider must not reclaim or remove a wheelchair that is the property of the client.

All 6-month "maintenance" agreements in connection with wheelchair rentals in nursing facilities are rescinded immediately. Medicaid will pay any remaining claim on a maintenance agreement only if the entire 6-month period had been completed prior to May 1, 2008. Provider must not reclaim or remove a chair previously under maintenance agreement, as that chair is the property of the client. (See paragraph, above.)

If you have questions or comments, please communicate via email with your Medicaid DME program staff specialist: mike.laughlin@DHHS.ne.gov