



# CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES



## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** FEB 14 2018 #18-02

**To:** CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS  
WARDENS

**From:**

VINCENT S. CULLEN, Director  
Corrections Services  
California Correctional Health Care Services

KATHLEEN ALLISON, Director  
Division of Adult Institutions  
California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

**Subject:** DISCONTINUATION OF PAYMENT FOR DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide policy direction regarding charges for Durable Medical Equipment (DME).

Effective March 1, 2018, patients within the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) will no longer be required to purchase DME as defined in the Inmate Medical Services Policies & Procedures (IMSP&P), Volume 4, *Medical Services, Chapter 32, 4.32.1, Durable Medical Equipment and Medical Supply Procedure*. This policy change does not include Health Care Appliances, such as dentures. If there is any confusion as to what constitutes DME, staff shall reference the DME Formulary on Lifeline under the IMSP&P link. Our current practice is not consistent with other government run healthcare organizations. It also leads to inconsistencies in policy application, drives appeal workload, and results in unnecessary workload for little gain.

The benefits of this change will include:

- Consistent application of policy throughout the state.
- Reduction in grievances and appeals for both California Correctional Health Care Services (CCHCS) and CDCR.
- Reduction in workload for staff.
- Patient access to DME will be consistent with Medi-Cal practices.
- Patients will not refuse to be issued medically-necessary DME in order to avoid losing funds from their trust account.

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Any existing trust account holds for previously-issued DME will be lifted, effective March 1, 2018. Full or partial payments that have already been made prior to March 1, 2018 will not be reimbursed. Accounting staff should not receive any further auto-printed notices for patient DME charges after March 1, 2018.

Nursing staff will continue to have the patient sign for receipt of the Electronic Health Records System (EHRS)-generated CDCR Form 7536, *DME Receipt*, which is sent to Health Information Management for scanning into the EHRS. Nursing will continue to send a copy to the Health Care Compliance Analyst.

Institutions should review any Inmate Orientation materials or media that address the requirements for patients to pay for DME and revise accordingly. Policy and Risk Management Services will expedite the necessary revisions to IMSP&P, Volume 4, *Medical Services, Chapter 32, 4.32.1, Durable Medical Equipment and Medical Supply Procedure*.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Vincent Cullen, Director, CCHCS, Corrections Services, at (916) 691-2887.

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