



DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT (DME)

Children and young adults with special health care needs often require various forms of assistive technology and/or durable medical equipment (DME) items or services to improve or maintain their ability to function in everyday life. Some examples of DME are:

- ♥ Seating and mobility devices (wheelchair, crutches, knee brace)
- ♥ Communication devices (DynaVox or iPOD)
- ♥ Medical equipment (hospital bed, transfer device, lift, feeding pump)
- ♥ Personal Emergency Response System (PERS)

Medicaid and private insurance companies are increasingly recognizing medically necessary forms of durable equipment. MassHealth is the Medicaid program in Massachusetts. Its Durable Medical Equipment Manual contains the regulations, administrative and billing instructions, and service codes for DME covered by MassHealth. It is important to follow the instructions of insurance companies when asking for coverage.

There is often no clear answer on who should pay, and obtaining funding usually requires patience and creativity. Below are some ideas for funding the devices that help make life easier for individuals with disabilities.

Some sources for funding, services, or used or recycled equipment:

- Civic Organizations such as the Knights of Columbus. Find your local Knights of Columbus at www.massachusettsstatekofc.org
- Disabled Children's Relief Fund: <http://www.dcrf.com>
- First Hand Foundation: <http://www.cerner.com/firsthand/>
- Massachusetts Assistive Technology Loan Program at Easter Seals: www.eastersealsma.org
- Mass. Dept. of Public Health's Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund: <http://www.mass.gov/cicrf>
- Wheels to Walk Foundation: <http://www.wheeltowalk.com>
- Craigs List: <http://boston.craigslist.org>
- New England Assistive Technology (NEAT) Resource & Education Center: <http://www.neatmarketplace.org>
- Local hospitals, schools, churches or religious organizations, camps and recreational facilities, Early Intervention Centers, or the Regional Consultation Program.
- MassMATCH (Massachusetts Initiative to Maximize Assistive Technology in Consumer's Hands: www.massmatch.org
- Pass It On: 508-477-6966 or 800-267-6768
- Wheelchair Recycler, Inc.: www.wheelchair-recycler.com
- For home modifications (for accessibility or safety): Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission's Home Modification Loan Program: www.mass.gov.mrc/hmlp

**For more Information, contact your Family TIES Regional Coordinator
at 1-800-905-8437 or www.massfamilyties.org**