

CHAPTER 8  
SECTION 1.15

PROGRAM FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PFPWD):  
DURABLE EQUIPMENT

Issue Date: December 29, 1982

Authority: [32 CFR 199.5\(a\)\(6\)](#), [\(c\)\(2\)](#), and [\(f\)\(3\)](#)

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I. PROCEDURE CODE RANGE

HCPSC Level II Codes E0100 - E1830

II. POLICY

A. Durable equipment is covered when:

1. A physician has certified that the item is necessary for the treatment, habilitation, or rehabilitation of the beneficiary.
2. The item is not available for loan from a Uniformed Services medical treatment facility.
3. A written authorization to purchase the item has been issued within six (6) months prior to the date of purchase.

B. Durable equipment cost-sharing.

1. When requesting an authorization to purchase an item of durable equipment, the beneficiary shall specify whether the entire allowable cost of the item is to be cost-shared in the month of purchase or prorated.
2. The maximum number of contiguous months the item may be prorated is the lesser of:
  - a. the number of months determined by dividing the allowable cost by 1,000, then doubling the resulting quotient; or
  - b. as determined by the contractor, the number of months of useful life of the item for the requesting beneficiary.
3. The allowable cost may be prorated monthly in any amount up to the maximum monthly benefit for a number of contiguous months not to exceed the maximum as determined above.

4. Each monthly prorated amount is to be separately authorized.

C. A cost-share, as described in this Chapter, is required in every month in which a prorated amount is authorized.

D. Reasonable repairs and maintenance on authorized beneficiary-owned durable equipment may be cost-shared.

### III. EXCLUSIONS

A. Durable equipment that is beyond the appropriate level of performance and quality required under the circumstances (i.e., luxury or deluxe). This does not preclude special fitting of equipment to accommodate a particular disability, such as fitting a wheelchair for a one-armed individual.

B. Durable equipment that is available for loan from a local Uniformed Service medical treatment facility.

C. Rental of durable equipment unless it can be shown to be more cost-effective than purchase.

D. More than one similar item during a benefit authorization period. This does not preclude the purchase of a replacement for an item that is no longer usable.

E. Durable equipment required by an institutionalized disabled beneficiary must be provided by the institution as part of the management plan and included in the monthly institutional charges. Only under extremely unusual situations may durable equipment be covered for an institutionalized beneficiary.

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