

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DHS 1/6/2020

LRB Number	19-4031/1	Introduction Number	AB-0660	Estimate Type	Original
Description reimbursement under the Medical Assistance program for complex rehabilitation technology					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill modifies the statutory list of durable medical equipment considered to be complex rehabilitation technology, for purposes of administering the Wisconsin Medicaid program, to include power seat elevation and power standing components of power wheelchairs. Currently, the Department's Medicaid policy allows reimbursement for both power seat elevation and power standing components of power wheelchairs, subject to prior authorization. Reimbursement for these items was allowed beginning on October 1, 2018 and total expenditures for these items was \$27,400 in FY 2019. Reimbursements made to date in the current fiscal year suggest expenditures for FY 2020 will be three times the FY 2019 amount.

The bill also requires the Department to defer to the judgement of a physician in determining the medical necessity of any complex rehabilitation technology item or service. This provision will constrain the Department's ability to apply prior authorization standards to claims for any complex rehabilitation technology item or service, which could result in higher costs to the Department. The Department does not have the ability to project the actual cost increase of this provision.

The Department will need to consider this provision alongside other statutory provisions governing complex rehabilitation therapy coverage policy. Presently, statutes require the Department to ensure "a qualified health care professional who does not have a financial relationship with a qualified complex rehabilitation technology supplier" and a "qualified complex rehabilitation technology professional" evaluate an individual's need for complex rehabilitation power wheelchair or other complex rehabilitation seating component (Wis. Stat. 49.45(9r)(b)3). Although a qualified health care professional may include a physician, the qualified complex rehabilitation technology professional, who is an individual certified "as an assistive technology professional by the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America" (Wis. Stat. 49.45(9r)(a)5), is unlikely to be also a physician. This current law provision would constrain any projected cost increase due to the bill's provision that the Department defer to the judgement of a physician in determining the medical necessity of any complex rehabilitation technology item or service.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications