	POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
Policy #: 404-1613	Lead Department: Utilization Management
Title: Seat Lift Chair Authorizations	
Original Date: 07/01/2004	Date Published: 10/21/2024
Approved by: Utilization Management Work Group (UMWG)	

Purpose:

To describe Central California Alliance for Health's (the Alliance) process for authorization of requests for Seat Lift Chairs.

Policy:

A seat lift chair will be approved when clear medical indications for this equipment have been met. The Alliance may require a member to be evaluated by a physiatrist, physical therapist, or request Durable Medical Equipment (DME) evaluation to ensure member needs are met. This evaluation includes a physical examination, a functional assessment and recommendations regarding this and/or any other required equipment. The Alliance uses MCG care guidelines criteria in determining medical necessity and authorizations requirements. For more information on medical necessity, please see Alliance Policy 404-1112 – *Medical Necessity - The Definition and Application of Medical Necessity Provision to Authorization Requests*.


Definitions:

California Children's Services (CCS): CCS is a state program for children with certain diseases or health problems. Through this program, children up to 21 years of age can get the health care and services they need for CCS-eligible conditions. CCS also provides medical therapy services that are delivered at public schools through their Medical Therapy Unit (MTU).

Seat Lift Chair: A Seat Lift Chair is a piece of equipment that has the specific purpose of permitting a person, without any other assistance, to move from a sitting to a standing position. Some Seat Lift Chairs may have the capability to recline to some degree; all chairs have specified weight limitations. A Seat Lift Chair is not for the purpose of reclining and providing leg elevation, nor is it a piece of furniture that provides an alternative means of sitting, sleeping or facilitating head elevation.

Whole Child Model (WCM): The purpose of the WCM program is to incorporate services covered by the CCS Program into Medi-Cal managed care for Medi-Cal-eligible CCS Program members. Managed care plans (MCPs) operating in WCM counties will integrate Medi-Cal managed care and CCS Program administrative functions to provide comprehensive treatment of the whole child and care coordination in the areas of primary, specialty, and behavioral health for CCS-eligible and non-CCS-eligible conditions.

Procedures:


	POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
Policy #: 404-1613	Lead Department: Utilization Management
Title: Seat Lift Chair Authorizations	
Original Date: 07/01/2004	Date Published: 10/21/2024
Approved by: Utilization Management Work Group (UMWG)	

A. Screening requirements:

1. All providers perform appropriate baseline health assessments and diagnostic evaluations that provide sufficient clinical detail to establish, or raise a reasonable likelihood, that a member has a CCS eligible medical condition. Providers will refer potential CCS-eligible members to the CCS program per Alliance Policy 404-1305 - *Screening and Referral of Medically Eligible Children to California Children's Services (CCS) Program*.
2. Health Services staff will screen for California Children Services (CCS) eligibility. Health Services staff members will refer potential CCS-eligible members to the CCS program per Alliance Policy 404-1305 - *Screening and Referral of Medically Eligible Children to California Children's Services (CCS) Program*.

B. Authorization Requests for seat lift chairs will be reviewed for medical necessity following medical necessity guidelines as outlined in Alliance Policy 404-1112 - *Medical Necessity- The Definition and Application of Medical Necessity Provision to Authorization Requests*.

1. Criteria:
 - a. The member must have severe arthritis of the hip(s) or knee(s) or have a severe neuromuscular or neurologic condition affecting upper or lower extremities.
 - b. The seat lift chair must be a part of the physician's course of treatment and result in an improvement in, or arrest or retard deterioration in the patient's condition.
 - c. The patient must be completely incapable of standing up from a regular armchair, or any other chair in their home. (The fact that a patient has difficulty or is even incapable of getting up from a chair, particularly a low chair, is not sufficient justification for a seat lift mechanism. Almost all patients who are capable of ambulating can get out of an ordinary chair if the seat height is appropriate and the chair has arms).
 - d. Once standing, the patient must have the ability to ambulate (within the household).
2. Documentation Requirements:
Documentation submitted with each Prior Authorization Request should include but may not be limited to:
 - a. Psychiatrist, or DME Evaluation or equivalent assessment documenting medical necessity to support medical necessity criteria.
 - b. Certification of Medical Necessity for Seat Lift Chair Form #849 to be maintained in provider file.
 - c. Face to face encounter with Physician focusing on inability to independently stand from seated position.
 - d. Physician Order for Seat Lift Chair.
 - e. For CCS WCM members:

	POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
Policy #: 404-1613	Lead Department: Utilization Management
Title: Seat Lift Chair Authorizations	
Original Date: 07/01/2004	Date Published: 10/21/2024
Approved by: Utilization Management Work Group (UMWG)	

- i. Durable medical equipment may be authorized when prescribed by a CCS paneled physician who is approved to treat the member's CCS eligible medical condition for which rehabilitative services are necessary, and who has examined the member within the past six months. If the recommending or prescribing physician is not a CCS-paneled physician approved to treat the member's CCS eligible medical condition, the request shall be reviewed by a CCS approved paneled physician for concurrence prior to submission for authorization.
 - ii. For CCS WCM members who are clients of the CCS Medical Therapy Program (MTP), the MTP therapist may be consulted to help determine medical necessity for the type of DME required and any special features or other equipment that might be needed to meet the member's medical needs.
3. Mobility Equipment:
 - a. The Alliance follows guidelines regarding a request for a seat lift chair along with a wheelchair based on their DME assessment. If the member qualifies for one, the other piece of equipment will usually not be authorized. If a request is made for a seat lift chair and the member is in possession of any kind of lift chair, wheelchair or scooter, the seat lift chair request may not be authorized.
4. Exclusions / Limitations:
 - a. Following Title 22 guidelines, the most effective piece of equipment that meets the medical needs of the member will be authorized. This means that choice of color or fabric for the chair will not be authorized if there is an extra charge. Features such as: side pockets for TV remote control, heat and/or massage capabilities, three position recline abilities, or other convenience items, will not be authorized.

References:

Alliance Policies:

404-1112 – Medical Necessity - The Definition and Application of Medical Necessity
Provision to Authorization Requests

Impacted Departments:


Community Care Coordination
Claims
Member Services
Provider Services

Regulatory:

CCS Numbered Letter 09-0703 Durable Medical Equipment

Legislative:

Contractual (Previous Contract):

	POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
Policy #: 404-1613	Lead Department: Utilization Management
Title: Seat Lift Chair Authorizations	
Original Date: 07/01/2004	Date Published: 10/21/2024
Approved by: Utilization Management Work Group (UMWG)	

Contractual (2024 Contract):

DHCS All Plan Letter:

NCQA:

Supersedes:

Other References:

MCG – Lift Chair

Attachments:

Lines of Business This Policy Applies To

- ☐ DSNP
☒ Medi-Cal
☒ Alliance Care IHSS

LOB Effective Dates

(01/01/2026 – present)
(01/01/1996 – present)
(07/01/2005 – present)

Revision History:

Reviewed Date	Revised Date	Changes Made By	Approved By
04/22/2020	06/26/2020	Lorna Metzger, RN Prior Auth Supervisor	UMWG
05/26/2022	05/26/2022	Lorna Metzger, RN Prior Auth Supervisor	UMWG
10/01/2024	10/01/2024	Mikki Fowler, RN, Senior Prior Authorizations Nurse	UMWG