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TO: Service Coordination Supervisors

FROM: Jacob Chorey, MR/RD Waiver Program Coordinator *JJC*
Michelle Abney, Community Supports Waiver Program Coordinator *ma/ug*

DATE: 21 December 2010

RE: Specialized Medical Equipment, Supplies and Assistive Technology

Assistive Technology under the MR/RD and CS Waivers does not cover medically unnecessary personal hygiene products or items of convenience that have no direct medical or remedial benefit to the participant (e.g. baby body wash, Sensodyne toothpaste, deodorant, air freshener sprays, etc). If a hygienic product is medically necessary, then it should be obtained through State Plan Medicaid as Durable Medical Equipment or as a prescription. For an item to have a remedial benefit means that it enables the participant to overcome an obstacle and independently perform a task/activity (or portion of a task/activity) that he/she would otherwise be unable to perform without assistance.

Assistive Technology through the MR/RD and CS Waivers also does not include over-the-counter medications (e.g. children's Motrin, vitamins, etc); nor does it include medicated hygiene products (e.g. T-Gel shampoo, Sensodyne toothpaste, etc). If needed, these items should be obtained by prescription through the State Plan or through the Prescribed Drugs waiver service, as appropriate.

Per policy, no food or nutritional supplement – other than liquid nutrition – may be authorized as Assistive Technology through the MR/RD or CS Waiver. A few MR/RD Waiver participants have continued to receive some nutritional supplements and foods (e.g. gluten-free, lactose-free) that were already authorized at the time policy changed to exclude them. **The policy must now be applied to all MR/RD Waiver participants.**

DISTRICT I

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Service Coordinators must identify all MR/RD and CS Waiver participants who are still authorized to receive as Assistive Technology any products that are not in harmony with policy and this guidance and must issue proper written notification of the termination of services, along with appeal information. The effective date of the termination is ten (10) calendar days after the date of notice (see chapter 9 of the MR/RD Waiver manual, chapter 8 of the CS Waiver manual). The reason on the Notice of Termination of Service (form 16-B) should be marked "Other." The explanation given on the comments line should be: "Policy no longer allows these items." **All required terminations relating to this guidance must be effective by 31 March 2011, and a copy of each Notice of Termination sent to Jacob Chorey (jchorey@ddsn.sc.gov, fax: 803-898-9660) for MR/RD Waiver participants and Michelle Abney (mabney@ddsn.sc.gov, fax: 803-898-9660) for CS Waiver participants.**

Please note that what is covered through the Assistive Technology service in the MR/RD and CS Waivers differs from what is covered by the service in the HASCI Waiver. Please direct questions related to HASCI Waiver participants to HASCI Waiver staff. If you have any other questions concerning this guidance, please contact your District Waiver Coordinator. Thank you.

JLC
MA

cc: Service Coordination Provider Executive Directors
Mary Griddine
Vicki Coleman
Dawn Shealy
Ronda Ritchie
Linda Veldheer
Mark Riffle
Kara Lewis
Angela Syphertt
Janet Priest
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