



COMMISSIONER  
Chris Traylor

February 21, 2012

To: Community Based Alternatives  
Home and Community Support Services Agencies

Subject: Information Letter No. 12-14  
Monitored Medication Dispensing Units as an Adaptive Aid

The purpose of this information letter is to notify home and community support services agencies (HCSSAs) that a monitored medication dispensing (MMD) unit is reimbursable as an adaptive aid in the Community Based Alternatives (CBA) program. The policy and operations will be in place to support this new item under adaptive aids on March 6, 2012.

A MMD unit is a medical alert used as a medication reminder to individuals. If the individual does not push the button when the alert is sounded, the monitoring company calls the individual's point of contact to determine why the individual did not respond to the alert. If the HCSSA is contacted by the monitoring company, the HCSSA must document in the individual's record the time and date of the monitoring company's contact.

The MMD unit is billed as a monthly fee and includes all fees. The monthly fee may include the rental of the MMD unit, the monthly monitoring service, items related to the MMD unit, the ongoing monitoring service, batteries, training individuals and individuals' contacts on the MMD unit, plastic cups used with the dispensing unit, and repairs/replacements of the MMD unit. HCSSAs must document the estimated annual cost of the MMD unit on [Form 3671-E, Adaptive Aids and Medical Supplies](#). The [Form 3671-F Rationale for Adaptive Aids, Medical Supplies, Dental Services and Minor Home Modifications](#) must document why the MMD unit is needed instead of the basic medication dispensers and identify any health and safety issues related to individuals' ability to operate MMD units. All third party resources (TPR) and availability of informal support to provide the medications must be explored and documented on [Form 3672, Medicare/Medicaid/Third-Party Resources Utilization Report prior to authorization through CBA](#). In addition, to be approved for an MMD unit, the individual must have a home telephone to connect the MMD unit.

If the individual is temporarily admitted in a nursing facility (NF), the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) will reimburse the HCSSA prior to the date of the admission to the NF. The HCSSA must notify the DADS case manager if the MMD unit will be removed.

The DADS case manager must convene an interdisciplinary team meeting (IDT) to determine if the individual is not physically or cognitively able to operate the unit, or if the individual chose not to respond to the alert due to refusal to comply with the medication regimen. The MMD unit will be removed from the individual's home, if after an IDT, the individual continues to be unable to operate the system and/or take medications as alerted. The MMD unit will also be removed if it is no longer required for maintaining the individual's medication regimen.

If it is determined the MMD unit is no longer required by the individual, the DADS case manager initiates the denial process. If the MMD unit is denied, the HCSSA must submit [Form 3671-E, Adaptive Aids and Medical Supplies](#) documenting the utilized cost of the MMD unit up to the effective date of the change.

The HCSSA may include nursing hours to pre-fill the medication dispensing unit on [Form 3671-C Nursing Service Plan](#). MMD units must not be authorized for individuals who live in Assisted Living/Residential Care (AL/RC) facilities or Adult Foster Care (AFC). The HCSSA may utilize emergency nursing hours when the individual does not utilize the MMD unit correctly and a home visit is necessary. Specification fees must not be authorized for MMD because it would not require any measurement or specification of any kind.

Individuals who are currently authorized MMD units will be reviewed at the next annual reassessment using this policy.

For questions regarding the content of this letter, please contact DADS Policy Development and Oversight at [CBA@dads.state.tx.us](mailto:CBA@dads.state.tx.us).

Sincerely,

*[signature on file]*

Teresa Richard  
Director  
Center for Policy and innovation