

ForwardHealth **UPDATE**

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FORWARDHEALTH REVISES ADAPTIVE STROLLER POLICY

ForwardHealth is revising its policy for adaptive strollers.

Beginning July 1, 2026, ForwardHealth will no longer:

- Use the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) procedure code E1035 for adaptive strollers.
- Consider adaptive stroller requests as all-inclusive.

ForwardHealth previously required providers to use the HCPCS code E1035 for the rental and purchase of adaptive strollers. Additionally, options and accessories were either part of the reimbursement of the adaptive stroller or all-inclusive rather than separately reimbursable.

The adaptive stroller policy changes will enable providers to:

- Submit the most appropriate HCPCS code to represent the adaptive stroller being requested.
- List all requested accessories as individual line items on prior authorization (PA) requests and claims.

AFFECTED PROGRAMS

BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid

TO

Medical Equipment Vendors,
HMOs and Other Managed Care
Programs

QUICK LINKS

- [DME Index \(PDF\)](#)
- [Clinical Review topic #451](#)
- [Overview topic #1774](#)
- [Adaptive Strollers topic #23817](#)
- [Manual Wheelchairs topic #23818](#)
- [Complex Rehabilitation Technology Mobility Devices and Accessories topic #1884](#)

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The revised policy will align with the [Medicaid National Correct Coding Initiative](#), improve tracking of all items requested and delivered to members, and adjust reimbursement to accurately align with all items delivered to members.

Base Components and Accessories

ForwardHealth will consider adaptive strollers requests as base components and accessories instead of as all-inclusive.

The base components are the components of the adaptive stroller that make it a complete, functional, and safe mobility device for a member.

Adaptive stroller accessories are additional items beyond the base components and represent options specific to a member's medical needs.

Base Components

Under the revised policy, ForwardHealth will consider the appropriate HCPCS code selected for the requested adaptive stroller make and model to cover all base components.

ForwardHealth will consider adaptive strollers to have the same base components as manual wheelchairs. Providers will find these base components in the ForwardHealth Online Handbook Adaptive Strollers topic [#23817](#) and Manual Wheelchairs topic [#23818](#) when they're revised on July 1, 2026.

Accessories

Providers will list accessories for adaptive strollers as individual line items in the same manner they currently do on PA requests for manual wheelchairs and power wheelchairs. Providers can find adaptive stroller accessory codes on the Wheelchair Equipment and Complex Rehabilitation Technology sections of the [Durable Medical Equipment \(DME\) Index](#).

Prior Authorization Requests

Beginning July 1, 2026, providers are required to submit PA requests for adaptive strollers by:

- Using an appropriate HCPCS procedure code for the base equipment. ForwardHealth expects that providers will often use codes that can also represent wheelchairs, such as HCPCS procedure codes E1161 or E1231-E1238.

THE KEY MESSAGE

Codes submitted on claims must match codes on the approved PA.

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- Using the UA modifier with HCPCS procedure code for the mobility base to identify the request as an adaptive stroller.
- Listing all requested accessories as individual line items on the Prior Authorization Request Form (PA/RF), F-11018 (04/2026).

ForwardHealth will review the requested adaptive stroller base and accessories for medical necessity and whether they meet approval criteria. Refer to the Clinical Review topic [#451](#), Overview topic [#1774](#), and Adaptive Strollers topic [#23817](#) for information about approval criteria.

Providers should continue to use process type 130 when submitting PA requests for adaptive strollers.

Claim Submission

When submitting claims for adaptive stroller PAs approved on and after July 1, 2026, providers will:

- Use an appropriate HCPCS procedure code for the base equipment as specified on the PA.
- Use the UA modifier with a HCPCS procedure code for the mobility base to identify the request as an adaptive stroller.
- List approved accessories delivered to the member as individual line items.

For claims associated with adaptive stroller PAs **approved before July 1, 2026**, providers will submit claims per the [2018 ForwardHealth policy](#). This means providers will use HCPCS procedure code E1035 to represent the adaptive stroller base and all associated accessories. These claims will be reimbursed under the all-inclusive E1035 policy from 2018.

Documentation Retention

Providers are reminded that they must follow the documentation retention requirements per Wis. Admin. Code § [DHS 106.02\(9\)](#). Providers are required to produce or submit documentation, or both, to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) upon request. Per Wis. Stat. § [49.45\(3\)\(f\)](#), providers of services shall maintain records as required by DHS for verification of provider claims for reimbursement. DHS may audit such records to verify the actual provision of services and the appropriateness and accuracy of claims. DHS may deny or recoup payment for services that fail to meet these requirements. Refusal to produce documentation may result in denial of submitted

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claims, recoupment of paid claims, application of intermediate sanctions, or termination from the Medicaid program.

Information Regarding Managed Care Organizations

This ForwardHealth Update applies to adaptive strollers that members receive on a fee-for-service basis and through BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid SSI, and other managed care programs. For information about managed care implementation of the updated policy, contact the appropriate managed care organization (MCO). MCOs are required to provide at least the same benefits as those provided under fee-for-service arrangements.

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The ForwardHealth Update is the first source of program policy and billing information for providers.

Wisconsin Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, SeniorCare, and Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program are administered by the Division of Medicaid Services within the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). The Wisconsin HIV Drug Assistance Program and the Wisconsin Well Woman Program are administered by the Division of Public Health within DHS.

For questions, call Provider Services at 800-947-9627 or visit our website at www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/.