

CMEDS Information Sheet for therapists in BC

Introduction:

The Children's Medical Equipment Distribution Service (CMEDS) is a pediatric equipment recycling pool funded by the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) and administered by HME Mobility and Accessibility. This program is available for children and youth receiving At Home Program (AHP) Medical Benefits and children in care under 19 years of age.

Guiding principle:

Striving to provide the right equipment, to the right child, at the right time.

Roles and Scope:

Therapists are responsible for determining the equipment needs and prescribing equipment. Therapists must first check if recycled equipment is available through CMEDS prior to requesting the purchase of new equipment. Therapists are responsible for properly fitting the equipment and providing instruction on safe use.

Vendors provide information on what equipment is available on the market. They do not make specific equipment recommendations. Conflict of interest disclosure: HME manages the CMEDS program and is also a pediatric equipment vendor.

Families choose which vendor they prefer to work with using the list of Approved Medical Equipment Dealers. For more information please see the [At Home Program Guide](#), contact MCF.MedicalBenefitsProgram@gov.bc.ca or call 1-888-613-3232 (toll-free).

Equipment Request process:

- Therapist determines equipment to trial based on needs.
- Therapist can email CMEDSTech@hmebc.com to request pictures or to view the equipment available in the warehouse through Facetime.
- Therapist fills out and submits the [CMEDS Equipment Loan Request Form](#) (by email at MCF.MedicalBenefitsProgram@gov.bc.ca or fax: 1-250-356-2159).
- Once MCFD receives, reviews and approves the form, they submit the form to CMEDS.
 - If the equipment is available, CMEDS will contact the therapist to let them know. Therapists should receive an email with pictures and can accept or reject the device. CMEDS will arrange for delivery to the home, facility, or vendor, whichever is appropriate for successful equipment set-up.

- If the equipment is not available, CMEDS will let the MCFD know so the therapist can submit a quote and letter of justification to the AHP for purchase from any of the approved Medical Equipment Dealers. Therapists have 5 months to obtain a quote and up to one year following the date of funding approval to purchase the equipment.
- Therapists can request a CMEDS technician to help with set-up by filling out a [CMEDS Repair Request Form](#) and sending it to CMEDSTech@hmebc.com .
- Once the equipment is delivered, additional components can be added to the device if necessary. Therapists must obtain a quote from an approved Medical Equipment Dealer and submit it to the AHP with a letter of justification.
- Unless there is a significant change in medical status or function, the AHP will not purchase a new wheelchair within the 5 year time limit or a new stroller within the 3 year time limit. There may be a deductible payable by the client for applying early. A new wheelchair or stroller can be obtained earlier than the time limit through CMEDS.

Repair process:

- Equipment <2 years old is repaired by the vendor where the equipment was purchased as part of the warranty.
- Equipment >2 years old or outside the warranty requires the therapist or family to complete the [CMEDS Repair Request Form](#) and send it to CMEDSTech@hmebc.com or call CMEDS at 604-821-0075 (250-386-0075 for Southern Vancouver Island) and ask for the repair. For clients outside Southern Vancouver Island and Lower Mainland, select the nearest out of town dealer and submit the repair request form to the closest dealer. If you have questions, please email CMEDSTech@hmebc.com
- AHP does not cover the cost of replacement due to intentional or negligent damage, loss or theft.

Growth of CMEDS Equipment or additional parts:

- CMEDS may deny growing chair even if there are no additional parts required or that the parts are already in stock (eg. seat width on a Zippie GS, addition of a wider or longer seat pan, longer front hangers or footplates, provision of bigger commercial seating). Therapists have recently had to get a quote from a vendor for these parts.

Return process:

- Equipment can be returned by the client or therapist at an [approved drop-off site](#). For clients outside lower mainland and Southern Vancouver Island (including Nanaimo), the CMEDS program uses local dealers to provide services.

- For equipment (loan or trial) to be picked up, the family or therapist must fill out the [CMEDS Equipment Return Form](#) and send it to CMEDSTech@hmebc.com.
- CMEDS keeps records of all equipment that is returned and loaned. Should the AHP require this information, they can reach out to CMEDS for clarification.
- When submitting a letter of justification for a new piece of equipment for funding, it is best if the requesting therapist will also advise of any previous equipment the child had, why it no longer works for them, and the status of that equipment.

Tips:

- Ensure the equipment is in good working order before it goes to a client. Some Centers are now shipping to vendors instead of directly to families.
- If the equipment arrives and is not in good working order or missing a part, take a picture of the repair needed or part to help expedite the process.
- HME should not be providing unsolicited quotes for equipment to families or therapists.
- If you provide CMEDS with the child's measurements, CMEDS will set up the equipment to those measurements prior to delivery. This makes it easier to fit. It is best to request this when you state that the equipment is appropriate.