

Medical Equipment Recycle and Reuse (MERR) FAQ

A durable medical equipment (DME) reuse program was one of the recommendations from the [Medicaid Solutions Workgroup](#) to contain and control Medicaid costs while maintaining quality services for recipients. A stakeholder workgroup was assembled to further discuss what a DME reuse program should look like in South Dakota. The workgroup consisted of a variety of DME providers, community support providers, SDHCA, Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities, representatives from another reuse program, and state agencies. The goal was to create a program to provide lightly used equipment to increase access to assistive technology. The intent is not to take away from current business, but to make the program cost neutral to providers. A request for proposal for a program vendor was drafted and approved during the stakeholder meetings. In order to determine the cost effectiveness and sustainability of the program, a pilot project is being implemented in the Sioux Falls region. The equipment listed on this website is now available as a way to provide the most conservative option to meet eligible Medicaid recipient needs. Equipment may also be used to meet the needs of other individuals who could benefit from reused medical equipment.

1. Who is eligible to participate in this program?

The MERR program is being piloted in the Sioux Falls area. All individuals in the Sioux Falls area are eligible to participate in MERR. Equipment will be made available to Medicaid recipients first and then open to the general public.

2. How will patients be referred to the website for the equipment?

Patients will continue to acquire equipment based on a physician referral and through a DME provider. If patients contact MERR directly for equipment, MERR will refer the patient to a DME provider in the pilot area to work with to get needed equipment.

3. Will suppliers need to apply to be part of this program or are all suppliers eligible?

There is no application for the program. All SD Medicaid providers in the pilot area are expected to check and offer used equipment as the most conservative option for care per South Dakota Medicaid's medically necessary requirements in [ARSD 67:16:01:06.02](#).

4. Who would be responsible for delivering, servicing and inventorying the equipment?

The MERR program is responsible for inventorying equipment and maintaining a website of available equipment. The MERR program will deliver equipment to the DME

provider for the DME provider to fit the equipment to the recipient and to teach the recipient proper use of the equipment.

5. Are there regions within the state of South Dakota that will store the used equipment?

Currently, the MERR program is being piloted in the Sioux Falls area. MERR has a location at 3411 S. Center Ave. Sioux Falls, SD where equipment is being stored.

6. What constitutes “used” equipment?

The MERR program utilizes Durable Medical Equipment or Assistive Technology that can be refurbished and sanitized. No soft goods are being reused as part of the MERR program. Items that are not in a usable condition will not be used in the MERR program. The [MERR brochure](#) contains a list of example items that may be re-used. Please review the MERR inventory to see a list of equipment currently available.

7. Will physicians be responsible for ordering “used” equipment?

The physician is responsible for writing a prescription. The prescription does not need to specify new or reused equipment. The DME provider filling the prescription should check the MERR website to determine if reused equipment is available to fill the order as the most conservative option to meet South Dakota Medicaid’s medically necessary criteria.

8. How will providers be reimbursed for services provided to the recipient?

See the MERR fee schedule. The MERR program will reimburse DME providers for services for the reused equipment.

9. Do patients have the option of taking the used equipment OR choosing new equipment?

Yes, Medicaid recipients may choose to receive reused equipment or obtain new equipment.

10. When providers get the equipment orders are we then required to refer the patient to the website to see if there is used equipment available that will meet their needs?

The DME provider should check the website to see if appropriate equipment is available to meet the recipient’s needs.

11. If a beneficiary receives used equipment from the web site and that equipment later breaks down, are providers required to repair the equipment?

No. The MERR program should be contacted so they can determine what to do with the equipment. The recipient has the option to select new equipment or another reused piece of equipment.

12. Who is liable for reused equipment?

The MERR program will use a consumer acceptance form to document the individual's receipt of used medical equipment. The MERR vendor is required to maintain liability insurance as outlined in the RFP, available here: <http://open.sd.gov/contracts/08/17-0131-308.pdf>

13. Is the plan to build a state sponsored DME provider?

No. The MERR program is intended to be a partnership with South Dakota DME providers to provide a source of lightly used DME for Medicaid recipients and other individuals interested in recycling and re-using medical equipment.