

**New York State Department of Health
Office of Health Insurance Programs
Request for Information (RFI) for Vehicle Evaluations and Modification**

Questions and Answers Posted 3/22/2021

Question #	Corresponding RFI Section	Question	Answer
1.	General	Are there specific state forms utilized for vehicle modifications and/or adaptive equipment recommendations that the CDRS should utilize?	<p>A. <u>Medical Indemnity Fund (MIF)</u>: Not at this time for the MIF, but these may be developed in the future.</p> <p>B. <u>Children's Waiver Program</u>: There's an outlined process and documentation requirement for children/youth enrolled in Medicaid Fee-For-Service. For children and Youth enrolled with a Medicaid Managed Care Plan, the Plan might have their own forms. Please see our website for all processes, policies, and forms at https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/redesign/behavioral_health/children/1115_waiver_amend.htm</p> <p>C. <u>Nursing Home Transition and Diversion (NTHD) Waiver Program & Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Waiver Program</u>: Yes, there are specific forms for the assessment and recommendation of modifications and assistive technology.</p>
2.	General	Are enrollee's required to have already purchased a vehicle before they are evaluated, and if so how are they informed of which vehicles are appropriate for the modifications that would be necessary?	A. <u>Medical Indemnity Fund (MIF)</u> : MIF enrollees are required to have purchased or will purchase a vehicle to be modified. There is opportunity for the evaluator to discuss appropriateness of eligible vehicles with the family during the initial evaluation.

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			<p>B. <u>Children's Waiver Program:</u> The enrollee can already have a vehicle that has been purchased but they must ensure that it meets the guidelines including, but not limited to, vehicle requirements be under 50,000 mileage or 5 years at the time of modification, rust-free at area to be modified, structurally sound, and in good working condition. The enrollee may be evaluated for safe passenger evaluation without a vehicle. The enrollee may then purchase a vehicle after it is determined that a modified vehicle may be needed for the enrollee. Additionally, the enrollee might be able to purchase a vehicle with the needed modification already completed as long as the modified vehicle "as is" fits the needs of the enrollee without need for further modifications.</p> <p>C. <u>Nursing Home Transition and Diversion (NTHD) Waiver Program & Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Waiver Program:</u> The vehicle must be owned by the enrollee, a family member who has consistent and ongoing contact with the enrollee, or a non-relative who provides primary, long-term support to the enrollee, and who is not a paid provider of such services. If the enrollee/family plan to purchase a vehicle to be modified, it must be approved for the modifications needed prior to the purchase. Additionally, the owner of the vehicle must sign an Agreement of Understanding form confirming that the vehicle is available to the enrollee without restriction. The statement must include the owner's agreement to the</p>

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			modifications and that the participant will have full access to the vehicle.
3.	Section C: Background (Pages 2-4 of RFI), Subsection "Medical Indemnity Fund"	The Medical Indemnity Fund (MIF) specifies that "vehicle modification requests must be accompanied by a vehicle modification and equipment evaluation, based on the enrollee's needs, that has been obtained from a <i>driver rehabilitation specialist</i> , who has been certified by the Association of Driver Rehabilitation Specialists." Is this a requirement for all other programs administered by the Department including; the Children's Waiver, NHTD, and TBI waiver?	<p>A. <u>Children's Waiver Program:</u> Vehicle modifications must be completed by individuals who are qualified and/or licensed to comply with State and/or local rules. The Vehicle modification provider must arrange for a mandatory comprehensive evaluation of the individual's needs for adaptive equipment or comprehensive vehicle modifications by an ACCES-VR approved Certified Driver Rehabilitation Specialist (if the individual is working toward employability) or Vehicle modification vendors approved under the Quality Assurance Program of the National Mobility Dealers Association."</p> <p>B. <u>Nursing Home Transition and Diversion (NTHD) Waiver Program & Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Waiver Program:</u> Yes, the Driver Rehabilitation Specialist will recommend the most cost effective and least complicated adaptive equipment and vehicle modification(s) that meet the participant's functional capabilities and safety needs.</p>

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4.	Section C: Background (Pages 2-4 of RFI), Subsection "Children's Waiver"	The Children's Wavier specifies that "The V-Mod provider must arrange for a mandatory comprehensive evaluation of the individual's needs for adaptive equipment or comprehensive vehicle modifications by an ACCES-VR approved Certified Driver Rehabilitation Specialist or V-Mod vendors approved under the QAP of NMEDA." Does this mean that the vendor doing the V-Mod can also be the evaluator making the recommendations? If using a Driver Rehabilitation Specialist who has been certified by the Association of Drivers Rehabilitation Specialists, who pays for this evaluation and post-modification evaluation service if not covered under medical insurance or ACCES-VR?	A. <u>Children's Waiver Program:</u> The vehicle modification pre-project evaluator is typically a third party, such as an ACCES-VR approved Certified Driver Rehabilitation Specialist or a certified Driver Rehabilitation Specialist, who is privately employed to provide such evaluations. There may be times when a certified approved vendor may provide a pre-project evaluation, but that vendor would then not provide the vehicle modification. In that case, the vendor would be paid for their pre-project evaluation. Any pre-project or post project evaluations for vehicle modification not covered under medical insurance or ACCES-VR are paid for by the Children's Waiver.
5.	Section C: Background (Pages 2-4 of RFI), Subsection "Children's Waiver"	What is the referral process the Department of Health has for referring enrollees for an evaluation and post evaluation to a Certified Driver Rehabilitation Specialist (CDRS)?	<p>A. <u>Medical Indemnity Fund:</u> Enrollees are assigned case managers who are able to ascertain the needs of the enrollees and if a vehicle modification is found to be such a need, the case manager works with the enrollee/family to find a qualified vehicle modification evaluator.</p> <p>B. <u>Children's Waiver Program:</u> The enrollee is provided resource lists of CDRS and ACCES-VR offices by regions. Care Managers assist the enrollee/families with setting up the appointments for pre and post evaluations with evaluators in their region. These services are paid for by the Children's Waiver if not covered under medical insurance or under ACCES-VR.</p> <p>C. <u>Nursing Home Transition and Diversion (NTHD) Waiver Program & Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Waiver Program:</u> The referral for</p>

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			<p>a modification is made during the service planning process. The need for the modification is included in a service plan and is accompanied by a medical order indicating that the modification is necessary. The individual's service coordinator is responsible for assessing all other available resources before moving forward with funds through the NHTD or TBI waivers. The enrollee and service coordinator work together to select a provider for the modification.</p>
6.	Section C: Background (Pages 2-4 of RFI), Subsection "Children's Waiver"	Is there a requirement that a post-modification evaluation by a CDRS be completed prior to releasing payment to the V-Mod vendor following modifications to the enrollee's vehicle? Or is the post-modification evaluation a suggestion rather than a requirement.	<p>A. <u>Medical Indemnity Fund</u>: The Medical Indemnity Fund requires a post modification evaluation prior to release of final payment to the vendor.</p> <p>B. <u>Children's Waiver Program</u>: The post project evaluation by a CDRS is not required prior to releasing final payment to a vendor, however, it's a fairly standard practice under the Children's Waiver Program for release of final payment.</p> <p>C. <u>Nursing Home Transition and Diversion (NTHD) Waiver Program & Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Waiver Program</u>: Upon completion of the vehicle modification and prior to final payment, the Driver Rehabilitation Specialist must complete an evaluation of the finished modification to ensure that it has been satisfactorily completed and meets safety and code standards.</p>