

The DME Access Project: Tracking Durable Medical Equipment from Recommendation to Delivery for Children with Special Health Care Needs

Would you like to participate in a study on durable medical equipment?

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The Massachusetts Consortium for Children with Special Health Care Needs invites parents to participate in a research study about families' experiences getting durable medical equipment (DME) for their kids.

Read on for details then contact Chris Fluet at 617-574-9493, ext. 1 or cfluet@neserve.org if you might be interested in participating.

What is DME?

DME – or durable medical equipment – are products that can be used over an extended period of time, are used at home, and are designed to fulfill a medical need. Some examples are wheelchairs, hospital beds, and oxygen concentrators.

What is the purpose of the study?

The process for getting DME can involve a lot of people – you and your child, your child's pediatrician, specialists, physical therapists, home nurses, your insurer, the DME vendor and manufacturer, etc. That can make it complicated. The DME Access Project wants to see where the process is working smoothly for families, and where it could be improved.

Who can participate?

To be eligible, you must be the parent or guardian of child aged 0-18, and your child must have a new recommendation or prescription for a piece of DME.

What would I have to do?

As a participant, you would use a special online diary to track your child's DME until it is delivered to your home. For example, you would note down when you spoke to the pediatrician, or when you received a letter from your insurer, or had a visit with the physical therapist. If you prefer, you can use a paper diary instead.

What's in it for me?

In addition to the knowledge that you've helped improve an important part of the health care system for families, you'll receive a stipend, plus fun incentive prizes.

How can I learn more?

Please contact Chris Fluet at 617-574-9493 or cfluet@neserve.org.