

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop 00-00-00
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



Center for Medicare/Technology, Coding and Pricing Group

June 13, 2024

Wayne Grau
Executive Director,
National Coalition for Assistive & Rehab Technology

Dear Mr. Grau,

We have reviewed your request to reexamine our calculation of the final payment amount for HCPCS Level II code E2298, “Complex rehabilitative power wheelchair accessory, power seat elevation system, any type,” application #HCP2307031B3DD.

We appreciate meeting with you to hear your concerns regarding the payment determination for this code. As we discussed during this meeting, having issued a final payment determination after our December 2023 public meetings, we are limited in our review to errors that may have occurred in our calculation of the payment amount. For example, additional wheelchair models with seat elevation equipment that were not brought to our attention through the public meeting process cannot now be added as part of our review of the calculation of the fee schedule amount for code E2298.

We appreciate the details provided in the spreadsheet accompanying your letter. We have reviewed the models and prices listed on this spreadsheet along with the concerns and questions that you posed as part of your presentation during our meeting on April 24, 2024. As we discussed, the Product Classification List is not always updated with current model names and numbers, and we appreciate the opportunity to clarify the list of models used in our payment determination.

As is our usual practice, the prices used in our payment determination were collected in the late summer and early fall of 2023, ahead of the deadlines to prepare and publish the preliminary payment determinations for our November 2023 Public Meeting. Based on the public comments, we added eleven models and removed one model, which resulted in a decrease in the final payment determination compared to the preliminary payment determination.

In our review of our final payment determination and your efforts to replicate this calculation, we have identified a number of differences between the prices used in your calculation and ours, along with an error in our calculation. We have also affirmed that your spreadsheet provided to us on May 7, 2024 as part of your reconsideration request identified all of the models used in our

final payment determination, including those that NCART suggested during the November 2023 Public Meeting. In our final payment determination, we used lower internet prices for twelve models compared to the prices you identified in the spreadsheet provided to us on May 7, 2024. Also, in this spreadsheet, you were able to find lower internet prices for three models that were not found as part of our research in 2023. You also identified four models, which were not identified in public comment, and thus were not included in our final payment determination. We do not consider these differences to be errors in our calculation, as we used information from the public meeting, public comment, and prices available to us at the time of the final payment determination.

In your presentation, you highlighted a model that we used in our calculation that does not have seat elevation as an available option (Quickie Q700 HD). We appreciate that you have brought this to our attention, and we will exclude this model from our payment determination. In addition, we carefully reviewed all other prices used in our calculation and found one other model (the Permobil F3 HD) for which the incorrect price was used. Correcting for these two errors, the average of the commercial prices used in our payment determination is \$3,094.03. After adjusting for the annual deflation factors and the update factors, the 2024 purchase price should be increased to approximately \$2,013.96. Based on preliminary calculations, the rental price would be \$201.40 for months 1-3 and \$151.05 for months 4-13, for a total of \$2,114.70 for 13 months of continuous use. We will update this final payment determination in the Second Biannual HCPCS Level II Coding Final Coding, Benefit Category and Payment Determinations document on cms.gov.

Thank you for your letter. I appreciate your sharing your concerns.

Sincerely,

Joel Kaiser

Joel Kaiser, Director, Division of DMEPOS Policy