

**REGIONAL CENTER OF THE EAST BAY  
PURCHASE OF SERVICE POLICY # 3409  
Date Revised: 10/2010**

**INCONTINENCE SUPPLIES**

**PHILOSOPHY**

Incontinence Supplies are used by individuals who are incontinent of bowel and bladder. These products protect the skin from breakdown and protect an individual's clothing so that individuals can participate fully in their community. Incontinence supplies are not a substitute for toilet training and individuals should receive adequate support so that they can become and maintain continent.

**SERVICE DEFINITION**

Incontinence supplies means diapers, briefs, and other supplies including cleansing creams and wipes used by individuals with incontinence of bowel and bladder to keep the skin clean and dry and to protect clothing. Incontinence supplies can be purchased directly from medical supply companies or through vouchers so that a family can obtain the supplies on their own.

Incontinence supplies are needed when an individual has not been toilet trained. Diapers protect against skin breakdown and protect the clothing of those who are incontinent of bowel and bladder. Diapers are appropriate for any consumer who is not actively involved in a toilet training program. Pull-ups or briefs are intended for individuals who are actively involved in a toilet training program. These protective products can be pulled up and down like underwear and provide protection for accidents. These are considered when an individual is actively participating in a toileting training program in both school/day program and home environments.

**BOARD POLICY**

RCEB may purchase or provide vouchers for incontinence supplies for any consumer over the age of three years with incontinence of bowel and bladder.

RCEB will consider purchase or provision of diapers for children under the age of three when a family can demonstrate a financial need and when doing so will enable a child to remain in the family home.

RCEB "shall identify and pursue all possible sources of funding for consumers receiving regional center services. These sources shall include, but not be limited to, both of the following:

(1) Governmental or other entities or programs required to provide or pay the cost of providing services, including Medi-Cal, Medicare, the Civilian Health and Medical Program for Uniform Services, school districts, and federal supplemental security income and the state supplementary program.

(2) Private entities, to the maximum extent they are liable for the cost of services, aid, insurance, or medical assistance to the consumer. Welf. & Inst. Code section 4659, subd.(a)

RCEB will “not purchase any service that would otherwise be available from Medi-Cal, Medicare, the Civilian Health and Medical Program for Uniform Services, In-Home Support Services, California Children’s Services, private insurance, or a health care service plan when a consumer or a family meets the criteria of this coverage but chooses not to pursue that coverage.” Welf. & Inst. Code section 4659, subd.(c) RCEB will “not purchase medical...services for a consumer three years of age or older unless the regional center is provided with documentation of a Medi-Cal, private insurance, or a health care service plan denial and the regional center determines that an appeal by the consumer or family of the denial does not have merit.” Welf. & Inst. Code section 4659, subd. (d)(1).

RCEB “may pay for medical or dental services during the following periods:

- (A) While coverage is being pursued, but before a denial is made.
- (B) Pending a final administrative decision on the administrative appeal if the family has provided to the regional center a verification that an administrative appeal is being pursued.
- (C) Until the commencement of services by Medi-Cal, private insurance, or a health care service plan.” Welf. & Inst. Code section 4659, subd. (d)(1).

## **CASE MANAGER GUIDELINES**

The case manager completes an assessment that may be in conjunction with RCEB clinicians (nurse or behaviorist as appropriate). This includes an assessment of the need including frequency of incontinence, toilet training programs being implemented , and other information including history of skin problems. Pull-ups are considered only for those consumers actively engaged in a toilet training program at both school/program and in the home environment.

The case manager considers the product that meets the consumer’s need and is most cost-effective.

Case manager ensures that all generic resources including Medi-Cal, private insurance, Medicare, and other funds which the family and/or consumer have available to purchase diapers independently of RCEB have been accessed. Medi-Cal funds incontinence supplies for individuals over the age of three with incontinence and a diagnosis of developmental disability.

Case manager reviews the need for incontinence supplies annually.

## **AUTHORITY**

California Welfare and Institutions Code section 4685, subd. (c)(7) and section 4659