



Health Services Advisory Council

December 10, 2025

Agenda

1. Welcome and Housekeeping

- Confirming March, October Minutes
- New chair volunteer
- Meeting format
 - Topic Introduction
 - Discussion and Recommendations
 - Policy Development

2. Portable Cribs and Car Seats

- Megan Warfield Kimball, Matthew Vierzba
- Shonette Micco
- Michelle Chiezah

3. Conclusion and Adjournment


- Next meeting date
- Next meeting tentative agenda
- Adjournment

- November Minutes Vote
- Committee Chair volunteer
- Meeting format for Youth Screenings
 - Introduction
 - Discussion and recommendations
 - Policy development



Portable Cribs and Car Seat Coverage

Matt Vierzba and Megan Warfield-Kimball | Benefit Policy Consultants

A close-up photograph of a baby's face peeking over the top rail of a white crib. The baby has light skin and bright blue eyes, looking directly at the camera. Their hands are visible, gripping the white rail on either side of their head. The background is a soft-focus view of the crib's vertical slats.

What we
are asking
today:

Do we have the
evidence to
recommend coverage
of portable cribs and
car seats as medically
necessary equipment
for MHCP members?

Funding Considerations



MN Medicaid typically receives approximately 50% of our funding from the Federal Government.



However, car seats and portable cribs (*in the absence of an illness or injury*) would not meet the requirements for federal match of funds

Requires that equipment meet criteria of Durable Medical Equipment to be eligible for federal financial participation

Durable Medical Equipment Definition:

- ✓ Durable (can withstand repeated use)
- ✓ Used for a medical reason
- ✓ Typically, only useful to someone who is sick or injured
- ✓ Used in your home
- ✓ Expected to last at least 3 years

Highlighted portions of law would not be met by the proposal to cover portable cribs and car seats for all infants.

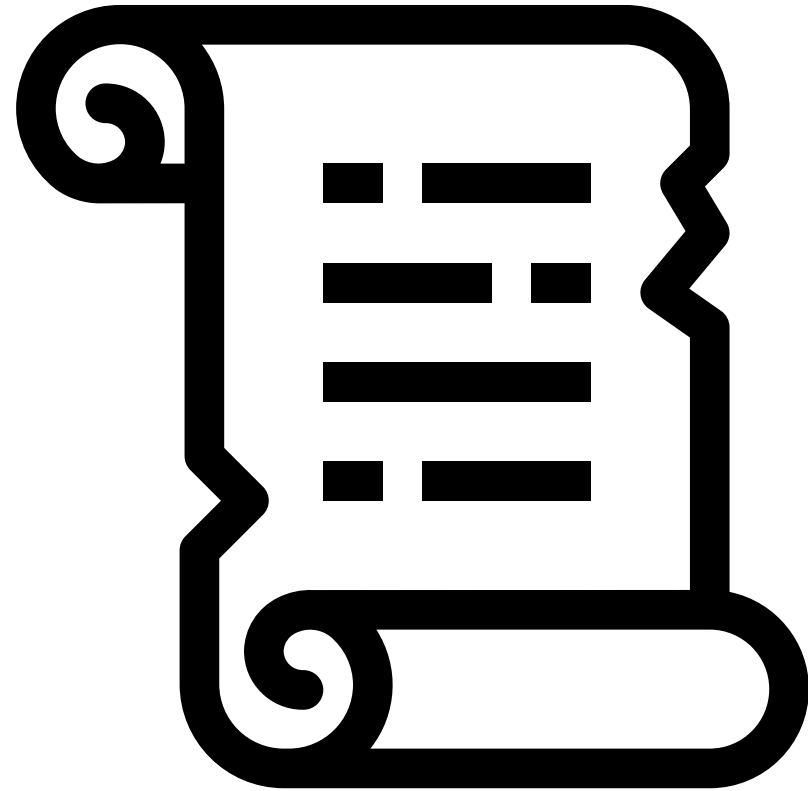


How Could Minnesota Medical Assistance Cover?

Legislation

Minnesota could adopt coverage using state funds only

- ✓ DHS could propose legislation for coverage due to medical necessity
- ✓ Once in law Minnesota Health Care Programs would cover costs with state funds



Medical Necessity – MN RULE 9505.0175

Medically necessary or medical necessity.

"Medically necessary" or "medical necessity" means a health service that is consistent with the recipient's diagnosis or condition and:

- A. is recognized as the prevailing standard or current practice by the provider's peer group; and
- B. is rendered in response to a life threatening condition or pain; or to treat an injury, illness, or infection; or to treat a condition that could result in physical or mental disability; or to care for the mother and child through the maternity period; or to achieve a level of physical or mental function consistent with prevailing community standards for diagnosis or condition; or
- C. is a preventive health service under part [9505.0355](#).

Questions for HSAC

Are Car Seats Medically
Necessary?

Are portable cribs
Medically Necessary?

Do you recommend DHS
propose legislation to
cover portable cribs and
car seats?

Do you recommend
DHS cover one
convertible seat over
the child's lifetime? Or
more than one car seat?



Car Seats

Current Medicaid Coverage of Car Seats



Standard Car Seats



Image from Tadpole
Adaptive



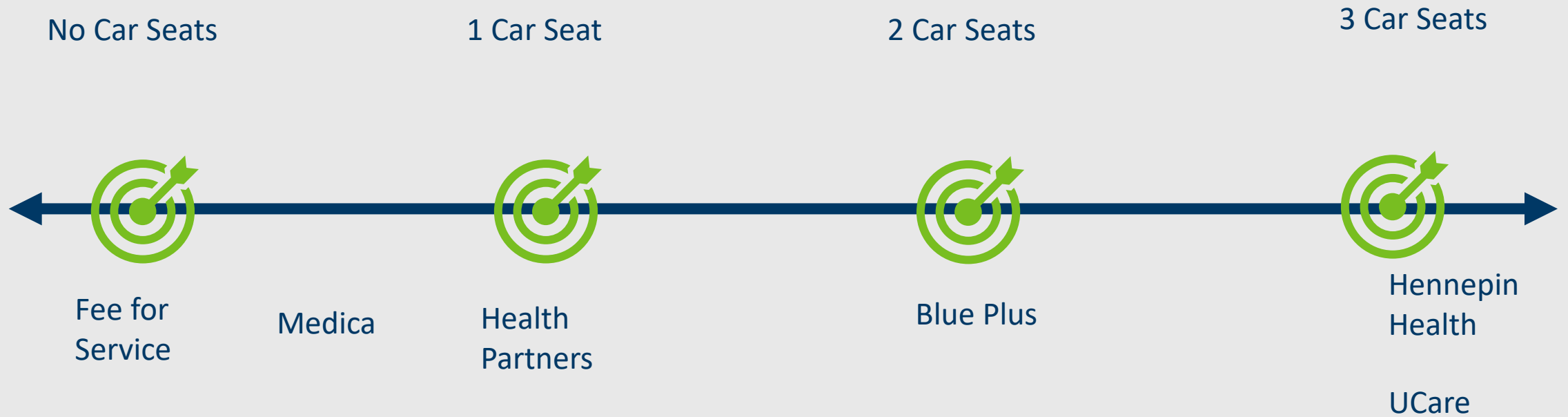
Adapted car seats for a
medical need

Car Seat Incentives by Prepaid Health Plan for MN MA

Health Plan:	Medica	Blue Plus	Hennepin Health	Health Partners	Ucare	Fee for Service
Car Seat Coverage:	Can receive a \$70 voucher towards purchase	Cover up to 2 per lifetime	Can get new car seat every 3 years up to age 8	One car seat per lifetime	Can get a new car seat every 3 years up to age 8	No assistance provided

Source: [Everyday Miracles](#)

Equity Perspective



Car Seat types

The EverFit All-in-One Convertible Car Seat gives your child a comfortable, secure ride through **3 stages**



Rear-Facing

5-40 lbs.
19"-40"

Forward-Facing

30-65 lbs.
34.4"-49"

Belt-Positioning Booster

40-100 lbs.
43.4"-52"

[Convertible Car Seat](#)



[Infant Car Seat](#)

Cost of Car Seats



Retail is \$100 - \$200 for a car seat

When provided through Medical Supplier could anticipate increased costs due to their requirements (different than an average retailer)

Most recent data for births: 1,349 births for FFS in 2023



Portable Cribs

Current Medicaid Coverage of Portable Cribs

[Image from Cradle of Hope](#)



Portable Cribs
(aka "Pack and Play")

[Image from Cubby](#)



Enclosed beds and
hospital beds

Portable Crib Incentives by Prepaid Health Plan for MN MA

No incentives from Health Plans
(None that we are aware of)



MHCP members rely on community resources, non profit organizations, and county referrals to hopefully access safe sleep for their infants.

Cost of Portable Cribs



Retail is \$65 - \$150 for a portable crib

When provided through Medical Supplier could anticipate increased costs due to their requirements (different than an average retailer)

Most recent data for births: 1,349 births for FFS in 2023

Questions for HSAC

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Thank You!

Conclusion and Adjournment

- Next meeting date
 - Wednesday March 11th, 5:30 – 7:30pm
- Adjournment



Adjournment

Thank you