

Why are supplies different at home?

In the hospital there is a large number of supplies because each staff member takes care of many patients. To reduce the risk of infection, staff have to use and throw away supplies often. Once you go home, however, there will not be an unlimited supply and you will have to learn to manage your supplies.

How many supplies can I expect?

Supplies are delivered every month. The amount you get of each item (quantity) is controlled by your insurance plan. The quantity is different for each plan, so you can't compare your quantity of supplies with your friend. Many insurance plans follow the same supply quantity as Michigan Medicaid. For this reason, the numbers we give you on the chart (last page) are the Medicaid quantities. You may get more or less.

What do I do if I run out?

You can call your Durable Medical Equipment supplier (DME) and ask for more. Sometimes a DME will give you a few supplies to get you through the month. However, sometimes the DME will not give you supplies. You may have to purchase additional supplies to last the rest of the month.

How can I prevent running out?

As you spend more time at home you will become familiar with the quantities you receive. You will learn how to use your supplies carefully to get through the month.

My DME tells me to get a “letter of medical necessity” and then they can get me all the supplies I want. How do I get this?

A letter of medical necessity comes from the vent team. The letter provides information about a condition your child has that requires more supplies than allotted. The medical team has to provide documentation of the condition and why the additional supplies are necessary. Letters of medical necessity are rare and cannot be used to cover wasteful use of supplies.

What if an item I need is not covered?

The medical team will discuss this with you. If the item is medically necessary, the team will write a letter in an effort to get the item covered. A letter of medical necessity is not a guarantee the item will be approved. If your insurance denies the request for an item, we will look at alternatives or you have the option to purchase the item.

Can I buy medical supplies?

Yes! Medical supplies are widely available online. Use an online search engine to look for the best price on the items you wish to buy. If the item requires a prescription, ask the team and we will be happy to provide one.

Common supplies and quantities

Item	Average monthly quantity based on Medicaid	Average price to purchase*
Disposable vinyl Gloves	4 boxes	\$2.55 for box of 500 to 9.95 box of 100
2x2 Split Gauze	140	\$8.05 box of 70
4x4 Split Gauze	200	\$7.29 box of 50
2x2 gauze (non split)	100 (1 package)	\$0.95 for 200
4x4 gauze (non split)	100 (1 package)	\$3.40-\$4.40 for 200
Cotton Tip Applicator	30 (in trach care kit)	&7.95 box of 1000
Trach Ties (Velcro)	30	Dale \$4.00 each Portex \$1.32 each Pepper Medical \$2.00 each
HME/Artificial Nose	90	Portex "T" style \$48.99 box 30 Inline Breas \$4.99 each
Saline Bullets	1 box	\$14.99 box of 48
Suction Catheters	150	\$42.01 case of 100
Sterile Suction Catheters (In Line)	Not covered	\$9-\$10 each
Little sucker	No Limit	\$2.99 to \$3.50 each
Replacement Suction Tubing	2	\$0.89 to \$0.99 each
"Belly Belt"	2	Dale Leg Bag Holder \$5.45 to \$8.99 each
O2 Sat probe-Massimo	2	Varies from \$198 each Least expensive \$366 box 20 (\$18/each)
O2 Sat probe-Nelcor	2	\$214 box of 24 (\$8.90 each)
Syringe 60 cc	4	\$29.99 for 50

Item	Average monthly quantity based on Medicaid	Average price to purchase*
Syringe 3cc or 5cc	4	\$15.99 for 100
Syringe 60cc for blenderized feedings	Not covered	Miracle Tip Syringe \$2.95 each
Nebulizer set	1	\$1.69 to \$2.99 each
Distilled water for ventilator	Not covered	0.99 cents/gallon
Sterile water for ventilator	60 bags	\$32.20/bag
Noninvasive Mask	1 every 90 days	Varies widely based on mask type In general most masks are \$100-\$200 each
Cavalon Skin Barrier	Not Covered	\$61.89 for 100(wipes) \$9.80 per bottle of spray
Duoderm Dressing	Not Covered	\$35.57 for 4x4 box of 5
Toothettes	Not Covered	\$24.99 for 250
Suction Toothbrush	Not Covered	\$89.99 for 50

**Prices based on Google search with key word.

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