

Attachment A

Home Safety/Independence Evaluations

Home Safety/Independence Evaluations (formerly known as “Occupational Therapy”) are periodic, episodic services provided by an Occupational Therapist (OT) to provide in-home evaluations to identify and mitigate home safety risks. The service includes observation and assessment of the Consumer’s normal functioning and completion of day-to-day tasks, including but not limited to ADLs and IADLs, in their living environment.

The service also includes recommendations to modify or adapt the Consumer’s approach to such activities and tasks to prevent injury or disability.

Home Safety/Independence Evaluations are justified when an identified need is unable to be met by State Plan services or as a maintenance program beyond the scope of coverage in the MassHealth State Plan. Services are designed to improve the quality of life by recovering competence, preventing injury or disability, and improving the individual’s ability to perform tasks required for independent functioning so that the individual can engage in activities of daily living.

Services must be considered by the therapist to be necessary for the Consumer to improve, develop, correct, rehabilitate, or prevent the worsening of physical, cognitive or sensory functions that have been lost, impaired or reduced as a result of acute or chronic medical conditions, congenital anomalies or injuries; or required to maintain or prevent the worsening of function. Services may also include the training and oversight necessary for the Consumer, family member or other person, to carry out the maintenance program.

The service could also include recommendations to enhance home safety, including recommendations for home repair, home modification, or assistive devices needed to enable the Consumer to engage in recommended self-care strategies. Home Safety/Independence Evaluations services must be authorized by the Care Manager in the Service Plan. This service is not subject to the Medical Referral Requirements found at 130 CMR 432.415 (MassHealth Therapist Regulations that describe the medical referral requirements necessary as a prerequisite to MassHealth payment) or the requirements for Prior Authorization found at 130 CMR 432.417 (MassHealth Therapist Regulations that describe the prior authorization process for therapy services). This service cannot be provided in settings other than the Consumer’s place of residence. The Home Safety/Independence Evaluations service may not be provided at the same time that a Consumer is enrolled in the Goal Engagement Program waiver service.

Home Safety/Independence Evaluations services must be performed by an OT with a valid Massachusetts license, or by either a certified Occupational Therapy assistant or an Occupational Therapy student under the direct supervision of a licensed OT.