Request for EMS Advice Guide:

Housing

*Useful information to consider when completing a Request for EMS Advice*

# EMS Funding Stream – Before you start

* Refer to Whaikaha EMS Manual 2.2.1 to ensure eligibility for Disability Support Services (DSS) or Long-Term Support for Chronic Health Conditions (LTS-CHC) Whaikaha funding are met.
* Is the person’s condition a medical/surgical condition or a disability (long-term functional loss)?
* Has alternative funding such as ACC or Hospice been considered?
* If under 65 years and the primary diagnosis is a chronic health condition, NASC confirmation of Long-Term Support for Chronic Health Conditions (LTS-CHC) funding is required.

# Background Information

* Who does the person live with?
* What supports (paid/unpaid) are current?
* External care - hours per week, number of support persons, visits per day.
* What about their situation has changed e.g., fast/gradual deterioration, recent CVA, hospital episode or fall (if so, when)?
* Is the disability expected to continue for at least 6 months and remain after treatment?
* Do they attend a regular day programme or respite care etc?
* Is the home owned, rented or licensed to occupy and how long have they lived there?
* Have they had previous funded modifications? Have they self-funded modifications?
* What are the person’s goals in relation to the housing modifications?
* Behavioural Support Services (BSS) if required. Check if pathway A or B is applicable.
* Is the person in shared care?

# Current Functional Ability

* Describe the functional loss and how these impact on occupational performance.
* What functional issues/difficulties is the person having? What specifically are the areas of concern?
* How quickly is the person deteriorating if progressive?
* Describe the current techniques/strategies (activity analysis) – why are the current techniques no longer working?
* What mobility or other equipment is currently in place (whether Whaikaha funded or not).
* How is the current or new equipment/support not meeting their needs? If discounted, why?
* How does the person transfer, what specific assistance (if any) is required?

# Clinical Reasoning

* What is the outcome following your assessment?
* What is the essential disability-related need? What will the benefit be?
* What alternate options have been considered to meet the need, including carer support? If discounted, why? What, if any, are the consequences?
* If a suitable solution has been identified, what is it, is it essential and how will this impact on person’s function, safety, independence and/or carers?
* Is your solution cost-effective?
* If the solution is not yet determined, what are the parameters that need to be addressed?
* Clarify the long-term sustainability of the person remaining in their home for at least 2 to 3 years
* Identify the physical features of the home and surroundings, the suitability of the property to meet the person’s disability-related needs in the long term and the feasibility of any proposed modifications.
* Identify the implication of the proposed housing modifications not being provided and how this might affect the person’s need for support and/or impact on carer stress.
* Explain why a less complex modification will not meet the need.

# Proposed Solution

* Provide a description of your solution i.e., level access shower (LAS), wheelchair-accessible vanity, door widening, surface or cavity slide.
* Indicate if the proposal is the most appropriate and cost-effective solution to meet the person’s disability-related needs when all other factors have been considered.
* Indicate whether you support the solution.

# Attachments

* Sketch of the current environment.
* Birds eye view or house plan (if relevant) of the environment – particularly for access solutions.
* Photos/videos can help the Clinical Advisory Service to understand the environment, current equipment, and disability.
* Functional/activity analysis reports can be provided to support the request.
* Written confirmation from NASC if the person is eligible for Long-Term Support for Chronic Health Conditions (LTS-CHC).
* Written confirmation from NASC if the proposed solution is high cost and/or complex housing modification.