

SEPARATE O&P FROM DME

When an O&P facility enrolls with the Texas Medical Assistance Program (TMAP), the application process does not provide an opportunity to designate Orthotics and/or Prosthetics as a specific type of provider. TMAP requires O&P facilities to enroll as durable medical equipment suppliers who provide in-home hyperalimentation supplies. The role of Orthotists and Prosthetists in healthcare is well defined and does NOT include providing supplies to individuals who require long-term nutritional support because of extensive bowel resection or severe abdominal bowel disease.

Generally accepted definitions of orthotics and prosthetics versus DME are starkly different. This classification is not accurate and does not comply with State law. The Texas Association of Orthotist and Prosthetists supports legislation to align the TMAP designation of Orthotists and Prosthetists with the nationally accepted taxonomy codes established by the National Uniform Claim Committee and required by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Because Medicaid's contractor, Texas Medicaid and Healthcare Partnership (TMHP), has categorized the enrollment of Orthotists and Prosthetists as DME suppliers of in-home hyperalimentation supplies, the public is unable to search the State's required electronic provider directory for an Orthotist or Prosthetist. This is wrong and prevents patients, physicians, case managers, therapists or other Texas citizens from locating the healthcare provider they seek.

The proposed legislation will require TMAP to accurately recognize Orthotists and Prosthetists and provide an accurate enrollment process for them. When TMAP is required to recognize an appropriate and accurate designation, the public will be able to locate these specialized health care providers within the Medicaid provider directory.

The legislation's goal is to align the taxonomy code associated with a provider's National Provider Identifier with their Texas Provider Identifier. This legislation does not expand Medicaid coverage or the scope of practice of Orthotists or Prosthetists or orthotic and prosthetic suppliers.