



DDS Statement on Non-Prescription Devices Outside of the Scope of 115 CMR 5.12

The mission of the Department of Developmental Services is to support individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, including Autism Spectrum Disorder and Acquired Brain Injury, to enhance opportunities to become fully engaged members of their communities. Regarding non-prescribed medical devices, the Department remains focused on supporting our members, the teams who care for them, and the medical professionals involved to maintain this ongoing mission. As such, DDS takes a neutral stance regarding non-prescribed medical support devices and defers to the medical team, the individual, and their support network to determine the most appropriate and evidence-based utilization decisions for that specific person.

All decisions regarding such devices must be person-centered. We strongly discourage agencies from purchasing or using non-prescriptive medical devices as standard equipment for all individuals in a residence. Instead, use should be based on individualized assessment and guided by informed consent, with the individual at the center of the decision-making process.

Where applicable, invoked health care proxies/guardians must be involved in determining whether a device is appropriate, based on a review of risks and benefits. Any approved uses should be documented in the individual's support plan and include staff training tailored to the specific device and person.