

REquipment Assistive Technology (AT) Program

Program Description

REquipment is a collaboration of the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC), Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, The Boston Home, the MA Department of Developmental Services, and the MA Department of Public Health – Massachusetts Hospital School. Together with other community-based reuse programs, the REquipment program collects donated durable medical equipment (DME), cleans and refurbishes the equipment and reassigns it to individuals in need at no cost.

Year One Program Results (July 2014 to December 2015)

# of Consumer Requests	# of Donations Refurbished & Posted	# of DME Reassigned to Consumers	Value of Reassigned DME
54	83	44	\$73,850

Who Benefits from REquipment?

- Adults, children and seniors across the Commonwealth
- People with chronic or newly acquired disabilities
- Veterans and the newly disabled, or aging, who need equipment
- People with limited insurance coverage for DME
- People being discharged from hospitals or rehabilitation anxious to return home after costly stays in institutions
- Elders who need increased safety at home
- People whose primary wheelchairs are being repaired and need to continue to get to work, school or medical appointments
- People with a temporary equipment need due to accident or illness
- Taxpayers and insurers, as equipment gets a second life serving more than one person, saving money and resources
- Massachusetts landfills!

An October 2015 article in the Worcester Telegraph Business Matters section highlighted positive aspects of the REquipment program:
<http://www.telegram.com/article/20141027/NEWS/310279968/0/SEARCH>

Program Features

REquipment refurbishes gently-used manual and power wheelchairs, sling lifts, rollator walkers, shower chairs, portable ramps and other Durable Medical Equipment (DME).

REquipment picks up donated items, sanitizes and repairs them so they are fully functional and safe, and delivers them to individuals.

REquipment makes it easy for people to donate and find equipment using a single point of entry, the web-based portal of available equipment – www.dmeREquipment.org.

REquipment provides consumer phone support to allow people to find equipment that meet their needs.

For more information on REquipment please call our toll free number, **1- 866-244-6156**, or email: info@dmeREquipment.org

If you are interested in more information on AT issues, including AT discussion forums, links, and resources, register for a free online account on the New England Assistive Technology Exchange:
www.getATstuff.com

Why Durable Medical Equipment (DME) is Important

- DME avoids prolonged hospital stays by facilitating quicker hospital discharge, getting individuals home safely faster without having to wait for equipment.
- DME allows people to continue to be productive at work and to be active in the community.
- DME provides back-up equipment that can help people avoid being bedridden and reduces the potential to develop costly secondary medical conditions.
- DME supports the equipment needs of MassHealth, Medicare and OneCare beneficiaries for back up devices.
- DME supports environmentally friendly Green initiatives through equipment reuse.
- DME assists low income individuals in need and is the right thing to do.

REquipment Stories

- Mary, a disabled woman in Cambridge, needed a wheelchair in order to be discharged from a rehabilitation center. In consult with her Occupational Therapist, REquipment provided her with an appropriate size wheelchair to enable her to be more independent in her apartment while she gained back her strength to walk. Mary and her family were very appreciative.
- Nancy, a young woman from Tanzania, came to Boston area hospitals for complex surgery due to cancer. After months of rehab, Nancy was anxious to be discharged to a family member's home in central Massachusetts. Having no insurance, REquipment provided her with the hospital bed, lift and other equipment she needed in order to keep her safe and healthy during her recovery. A team effort between her Case Manager and REquipment staff gave Nancy what she needed to recuperate faster.
- A 5-year-old Massachusetts resident with cerebral palsy was homeless and without a wheelchair. His lack of a wheelchair meant he could not go to school, and that his mother carried him or pulled him in a cart. Upon receipt of a refurbished manual wheelchair, he was able to go to school and get around the neighborhood much more easily with his mother.

Choose to Reuse Durable Medical Equipment



Thank you to the **dozens of donor families across Massachusetts** that allowed their loved one's durable medical equipment to be reused for others.