

Request for EMS Advice Guide: Housing – Challenging Behaviours

The following information is useful when completing a Request for EMS Advice.

EMS Funding Stream – Before you start

Refer to the current EMS Housing Modifications Manual to make sure all Disability Support Services (DSS) eligibility and access criteria are met.

- Section 2. Assessment, eligibility and access criteria.
- Section 13.4. Challenging behaviour (definition).
- Section 6.4 Modifications to support people who have challenging behaviour.
- Is the person's condition a medical/surgical condition or a disability (long-term functional loss)?
- Section 10.1.1. If the person is under 65 and the primary diagnosis is a chronic health condition, Needs Assessment Service Coordination (NASC) confirmation of Long-Term Support – Chronic Health Conditions (LTS-CHC) funding is required.

What Pathway are you following – Pathway A, Pathway B or Pathway B Addendum?

Refer to:

- Practice Guideline: Interface Between Needs Assessment and Service Coordination and Equipment and Modification Services Assessors and Providers (Practice Guidelines).
- Management of Housing Modifications and Behavioural Support Requirements (Pathway B Addendum).

Website link:

<https://www.disabilitysupport.govt.nz/providers/equipment-and-modification-services/manuals-and-practice-guidelines#manuals-for-providers-and-ems-assessors>

Background Information

- Primary diagnosis and co-morbidities relevant to the request.
- Living situation – who they live with and any shared care arrangements.
- Roles of the person and/or primary carers (e.g., schooling, employment).
- Description of the home/property, including ownership (owner-occupied, rented, Kāinga Ora, or licensed to occupy).
- How long the person has lived there and whether they are likely to stay for the next 2–3 years.
- Current supports in place (paid/unpaid), including regular programmes or respite care.

- Involvement with NASC and other agencies, including Explore Behaviour Services (Explore), Ministry of Education (MOE), Paediatricians, and Strengthening Families.
- Explore involvement – current, previous, or waitlisted.
- Any previous DSS funding
- Has the family self-funded any housing modifications?
- What equipment, support packages, or behaviour strategies have been considered.

Current Functional Ability

- Explain how the person's diagnosis(es) affect their ability to safely perform essential everyday activities, such as moving around, engaging in tasks, following instructions, and communicating with others.
- Provide an overview of the behaviours currently of concern, including their frequency, duration, severity and risk of harm to themselves or others.
- Describe what strategies or techniques the family currently uses to manage these behaviours.

Goals

What the person and their whānau want to achieve from the proposed housing modifications.

Clinical Reasoning

- How do the identified behaviours create high risk for the person or their support person, or family/whānau?
- What has changed in their social, physical, or home environment.
- What possible solutions have been identified (is it essential? / impact on function / safety / independence / carer burden / cost effective?).
- Have parental and homeowner responsibilities been discussed/considered?
- What could happen if the modifications are not provided, including impact on support needs and carer stress.
- Why behaviour support strategies or previous solutions no longer work or are not sustainable.

Behaviour support strategies should be considered first, particularly where proposed modifications may restrict a person's normal freedom of movement or access within their home, to ensure the need for modifications is minimised or avoided where possible.

Proposed Solution

- Describe the proposed solution.
- State whether you support the solution.
- Is the solution supported by Explore (Pathway B)

Attachments

Provide concept sketches of the current environment and proposed modifications.

Include:

External sketches

- A bird's eye view of the property, illustrating the house's location on the property, including existing fence lines, measurements, access points, and the main living areas. Include details of proposed solutions.

Internal sketches

- A bird's-eye view of the house, showing the bathroom location, the person's bedroom, main living areas, and access points.
- Elevation drawings if relevant (e.g., for window changes).

Photos/videos

- These help the Clinical Advisory Service understand the environment.
- External photos: street/driveway, views from windows into the proposed safe play area, entrances.
- Internal photos: all relevant rooms and how problem areas connect to the rest of the home.

Additional Attachments

- Explore Positive Behavioural Support Plan (indicating support of the proposed modifications) if relevant.
- Written confirmation from NASC if the proposed solution is a restraint (Pathway B), high-cost and/or a complex housing modification.
- Confirmation from NASC if the person is eligible for LTS-CHC.