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## Maryland Department of Aging Opens New Durable Medical Equipment Collection Site in Montgomery County

Derwood, MD - The Maryland Department of Aging is pleased to announce the opening of a new durable medical equipment (DME) collection site in Montgomery County, making it easier for residents to drop off wheelchairs, walkers, and other medical equipment that would otherwise go to waste. The Shady Grove Transfer Station and Recycling Center, located at 16101 Frederick Road in Derwood, is the eighth landfill in Maryland to house a DME collection container as part of the Maryland DME Re-Use program run by the Department.

“Many of us have medical equipment in our basements, garages or attics that is no longer used, but is too good to throw away,” said Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich at a recent event announcing the new collection site. “This program helps our county’s efforts to reduce, reuse, and recycle, while also helping our neighbors.”

The average wheelchair or walker has a usable life span of more than five years. However, this type of equipment is often only used for a few months before being thrown away, taking up valuable landfill space while leaving many without resources to obtain the medical equipment they desperately need.

“One of the greatest aspects of this program is that all the equipment is redistributed free of charge to anyone with any disability or at any income level,” said Maryland Department of Aging Secretary Carmel Roques. “We are excited to add Montgomery County to our program so we can continue to provide DME to those in need, while also helping the environment.”

Once the 20-foot container that holds up to 95 pieces of equipment is filled, technicians with Maryland DME Re-Use will collect the equipment and transport it to a 56,000-square-foot facility located in Cheltenham. It is then sanitized, repaired, and stored for future distribution. Non-functional equipment is broken down for parts that are saved and later used, further minimizing waste.

“We have seen remarkable success since the program began less than 3 years ago,” said Maryland DME Re-Use Director Ian Edwards. “We have collected more than 20,000 donations of DME, weighing over 600,000 pounds and saving over 230,000 square feet of valuable landfill space.”

Edwards thanked all those who helped make the new site possible, especially the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection for providing space and Maryland Environmental Service for providing operational support at the site. To find out more about Maryland DME Re-Use, including collection site locations, acceptable donations or how to apply to receive durable medical equipment, go to [dme.maryland.gov](https://dme.maryland.gov), call 240-230-8000 or email [dme.mdoa@maryland.gov](mailto:dme.mdoa@maryland.gov).

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