



What is Medical Baseline?

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The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) oversees many programs and initiatives designed to assist consumers. One such effort is called *Medical Baseline*.

All residential customers are billed a certain amount of their electricity and natural gas use at their utility's lowest residential rate. This is called the *Baseline Allowance*, and it is set depending on the climate zone your home is in and whether it is the utility's "winter" or "summer" season. Extra allowances of electricity and natural gas are billed at the lowest rate for customers who have life-threatening illnesses or compromised immune systems. The extra allowances are called *Medical Baseline*.

Life-support equipment is equipment that uses mechanical or artificial means to sustain, restore, or supplant vital functions, or mechanical equipment that is relied upon for mobility both within and outside of buildings. This includes all types of respirators, iron lungs, hemodialysis machines, suction machines, electric nerve stimulators, pressure pads and pumps, aerosol tents, electrostatic and ultrasonic nebulizers, compressors, intermittent positive pressure breathing machines, and motorized wheelchairs.

In addition, and in consideration of their increased heating and cooling needs, Medical Baseline is available to paraplegics and quadriplegics, multiple sclerosis patients, scleroderma patients, and people being treated for life-threatening illnesses or who have compromised immune systems.

How do I apply for Medical Baseline?

Contact your electric and gas company(ies) for an application form and have your licensed physician or other authorized person confirm your condition and sign the form. Then return the form to your utility company or companies.

For more information please contact the CPUC's Business & Community Outreach team:

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