



MOBILITY EQUIPMENT

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What are the rules? Remember you must rule out each lower level item. Medicare pays for the least costly alternative.

ITEM REQUIRED

1. Cane – Written order and there is a mobility impairment but potential for ambulation.

2. Walker – Written order and there is mobility impairment that cannot be corrected with a cane but potential for ambulation. Heavy duty would need weight greater than 300 pounds.

3. Manual wheelchairs – Must rule out use of cane/walker.

A. Standard – A manual wheelchair FOR USE INSIDE THE HOME is covered if the following criteria (1-6) are met and documented in the medical record:

1. The patient has a mobility limitation that significantly impairs the ability to participate in one or more mobility related activities of daily living (MRADL's) such as toileting, dressing, grooming or bathing in customary locations in the home.
2. The mobility limitation cannot be sufficiently resolved by the use of an appropriately fit cane OR walker.
3. The use of a manual wheelchair will significantly improve the patient's ability to participate in MRADL's and that the patient will use it on a regular basis in the home.
4. The patient has not expressed an unwillingness to use the manual wheelchair that is provided for home use.
5. The patient has sufficient upper extremity function and other physical and mental capabilities needed to safely self-propel the manual wheelchair that is provided in the home during a typical day -OR - the patient has a caregiver who is available, willing and able to provide assistance with the wheelchair.
6. The patient's height and weight must be documented in the medical record.

B. Hemi-height – Needs manual wheelchair; needs lower seat to floor height for transfers and/or to assist with self-propelling with feet.

C. Lightweight – If ordering a lightweight wheelchair, it must be documented that the patient is not able to self-propel in a standard wheelchair but would be able to self-propel in a lightweight wheelchair.

D. Heavy-duty base is covered if patient needs a manual wheelchair and weight is greater than 250 pounds.

E. Extra heavy duty is covered if patient needs a manual wheelchair and weight is greater than 300 pounds.

F. A transport chair (E1037, E1038 or E1039) is covered in lieu of a standard manual wheelchair for use within the home. A transport chair is a 17 pound wheelchair that can be easier for caregivers to handle, but is NOT a self-propelling chair. Cost on these chairs is \$230.00.*

With all manual wheelchairs, the first rule to remember is that the need is for IN THE HOME and must rule out each lower-level item before a higher level is covered.

**Price subject to change.*