

Medicare is requiring supportive skilled documentation to justify DME equipment that is being requested before they will cover the cost.

Words to avoid: will allow patient to leave home, re-enter community, etc.

Medicare will only cover equipment if it is for in-home use.

When completing the 5 day Transition communication form, also complete an addendum note in RO for the patient to support the equipment. The note must include the reason for the equipment as well as why a less dependent device cannot be used.

Here is a cheat sheet to assist you:

Mobility Related Equipment

First sentence to support the appropriate device:

1. Patient select condition due to DX and requires select med necessary equipment to safely select all that apply.

is non-WB	cane	ambulate within the home
is PWB	crutches	maneuver within the home
has compromised WB status	quad cane	complete ADLs without assistance
has gait instability	walker	
is non-ambulatory	walker with wheels	
has limited endurance	standard wheelchair	
has limited ability to	hemi-height wheelchair	
is a high fall risk	lightweight wheelchair	
has weakness	transport wheelchair	
has fatigue		
has dizziness		

A Second sentence is needed to support that the lower level/less costly device is not appropriate:

2. A properly fitted select less costly device was attempted, but due to select remaining conditions with that device, it is not appropriate.

cane	continued balance deficit
crutches	limited coordination
quad cane	fall risk
walker	weight bearing status
Walker with wheels	inability to safely ambulate
Standard wheelchair	limited endurance
Hemi-height wheelchair	inability to maneuver within the home
lightweight wheelchair	etc...

Commode:

First sentence to support the device:

1. Patient select condition due to DX and cannot safely ambulate/access bathroom. A select equip is necessary for toileting.
- is non-WB
 - is PWB
 - has compromised WB status
 - has gait instability
 - is non-ambulatory
 - has limited endurance
 - has limited ability to
 - is a high fall risk
 - has weakness
 - has fatigue
 - has dizziness
- bedside commode
drop arm commode

A Second sentence is needed to support that the lower level/less costly device is not appropriate:

2. A standard bed side commode is not appropriate for this pt due to select condition. A drop arm commode is necessary to allow for lateral transfer.
- inability to stand pivot transfer
 - dizziness
 - NWB status
 - compromised WB status
 - high fall risk

*Add any other statements that will support the device you are recommending and why a less supportive device is not appropriate.

Hospital Beds: Please include the statement that best describes your patient’s condition in the notes and order.

Patient requires the head of the bed to be elevated greater than 30* (dx requiring elevation should be COPD, aspiration, or CHF)	due to	DX	would benefit from a fixed height hospital bed
Patient requires the head of the bed to be elevated greater than 30* And the bed height to allow for transfers to w/c, chair, or standing (dx requiring elevation should be COPD, aspiration, or CHF)	due to	DX	would benefit from a variable height hospital bed
Patient requires the head of the bed to be elevated greater than 30* plus Frequent and immediate changes in body position (dx requiring elevation should be COPD, aspiration, or CHF)	due to	DX	would benefit from a semi-electric hospital bed
Patient weighs more than 350lbs. and requires the head of the bed to Be elevated greater than 30* (dx requiring elevation should be COPD, aspiration, or CHF)	due to	DX	would benefit from a heavy-duty hospital bed
Patient requires positioning not feasible with an ordinary bed due to A medical condition or to alleviate pain	due to	DX	would benefit from a fixed height hospital bed
Patient requires positioning not feasible with an ordinary bed due to A medical condition or to alleviate pain & the bed height to allow for Transfers to w/c, chair or standing position	due to	DX	would benefit from a variable height hospital bed
Patient requires positioning not feasible with an ordinary bed due to A medical condition or to alleviate pain plus frequent and immediate Changes in body position	due to	DX	would benefit from a semi-electric hospital bed
Patient weighs more than 350 lbs and requires positioning not feasible With an ordinary bed due to a medical condition or to alleviate pain	due to	DX	would benefit from a heavy-duty hospital bed
Patient requires traction	due to	DX	would benefit from a fixed height hospital bed
Patient requires traction and a bed height to allow for transfers to w/c, Chair or standing position	due to	DX	would benefit from a variable height hospital bed
Patient requires traction plus frequent and immediate changes in body Position	due to	DX	would benefit from a semi-electric hospital bed
Patient weighs more than 350 lbs & requires traction	due to	DX	would benefit from a heavy-duty hospital bed