

Durable Medical Equipment Resource Guide



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Durable Medical Equipment Resource Guide

Introduction

This guide is for staff who provide intake, case management, diversion or transition services to consumers who may benefit from use of durable medical equipment. Durable medical equipment (DME) means equipment that is:

- Primarily used to serve a medical purpose
- Usually not useful if a person does not have a disability, illness, or injury, and
- Suitable for use in the home.

DME is generally reusable. However, some items are not, such as wound supplies or incontinence supplies.

DME is available from durable medical equipment suppliers. Drugstores often sell some DME items.

Bed and bed accessories

Hospital bed

A hospital bed lets you elevate the head and foot of the bed. You can also raise and lower the height of the bed to make it easier to get in and out. There are different types of hospital beds. Some have a hand crank to raise or lower the bed, others are fully electric. Hospital beds are usually for a person who:

- Has breathing difficulties (needs their head elevated), or
- Is partially or fully paralyzed.

Full-electric hospital beds are not covered by Medicare or Medicaid.

A hospital bed for a larger person is also covered. However, weight limits apply. For example, a person must weigh more than 350 pounds to qualify.

Potentially paid by:

- Medicare
- Medicaid (Oregon Health Plan or OHP)
- K Plan



Overbed table

An overbed table is designed for a person who is in their bed for long stretches of time. Typically, the table has a base with a four wheels that slide under the bed. The tabletop is narrow and rectangular. The table allows the user to keep items readily available.

Potentially paid by:

- K Plan

Medicare and Medicaid (Oregon Health Plan or OHP) do not pay for this item.

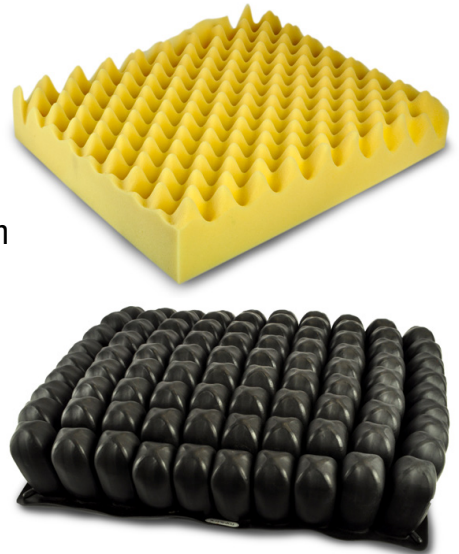


Pressure relief mattress

You can get a pressure relief mattress (air, water or gel) or an overlay in a size that fits a hospital bed. They are for a person who has a history of pressure sores. These sores are commonly called “bed sores.” There are many different types of these mattresses and overlays. Therefore, it’s important to have the person work with their doctor to find out which type they need. Medicare, Medicaid or K Plan may limit the type of mattress or overlay they cover.

Potentially paid by:

- Medicare
- Medicaid (Oregon Health Plan or OHP)
- K Plan



Bed rails, half or full size

Bed rails are covered for hospital beds and conventional beds.

Potentially paid by:

- Medicare
- Medicaid (Oregon Health Plan or OHP)
- K Plan



Trapeze

A trapeze is also known as any of these:

- Bed trapeze
- Medical trapeze
- Overhead trapeze

A trapeze looks like a triangle. It can hang from the frame of a hospital bed or be free standing. It allows the person in bed to adjust their body, if they have arm strength. A person doesn’t need a hospital bed to use a trapeze.

Potentially paid by:

- Medicare
- Medicaid (Oregon Health Plan or OHP)
- K Plan



Toileting aids

Bedpans and urinals

A bedpan is a shallow pan for urine or feces. A urinal is a portable container for urine. A bedpan or urinal may be useful for a person who is unable to leave their bed.

Potentially paid by:

- Medicare
- Medicaid
- K Plan



Bedside commode

A bedside commode is a portable toilet for a person who has difficulty getting to the bathroom. Feces or urine go into a bucket that is removable. Bedside commodes are available in different sizes. A bedside commode is a “hygienic” item. This means the vendor won’t take it back if it’s the wrong size. Therefore, it’s important to order one that is the correct size and has the right weight capacity.

Potentially paid by:

- Medicare
- Medicaid (Oregon Health Plan or OHP)
- K Plan



Incontinence supplies

Incontinence supplies are helpful for a person who has:

- Bladder accidents
- Bowel accidents, or
- No control over their bladder or bowel, or both.

There are different items that can help. Many people wear briefs. Briefs are available in different sizes and styles.

Other items include:

- Bed pads, also known as chucks pads, chux pads or chux (a waterproof pad used in a bed or chair)
- Pads (used instead of briefs)
- Gloves, and
- Cremes.

Typically, only a certain number of these supplies are dispensed each month.

Potentially paid by:

- Medicaid (Oregon Health Plan or OHP)
- K Plan

Medicare does not pay for this item.



Raised toilet seat or toilet safety rails

A raised toilet seat goes on top of an existing toilet seat. It makes it easier for a person to sit down and get up because it's not as low.

Safety rails next to the toilet can help a person get on and off the toilet.

Potentially paid by:

- Medicaid (Oregon Health Plan or OHP)
- K Plan

Medicare does not pay for this item.

Patient lifts

Hoyer lifts

A Hoyer is a lift for those who need total assistance to get out of bed. Hoyer is technically a brand name. However, people use the Hoyer name for a lift the same way they use the name Kleenex® to refer to facial tissue.

The Hoyer frame supports a sling that fits under the person's body. A hydraulic pump in the Hoyer lifts the person off the bed. The Hoyer can then suspend the person in the air. The Hoyer comes with attached wheels. You can then push it to maneuver the person to a place to sit. The person is then slowly lowered into a wheelchair, or a sofa, etc.

Potentially paid by:

- Medicare
- Medicaid (Oregon Health Plan or OHP)
- K Plan



Sit-to-stand

This lift helps a person transfer from a sitting to standing position.

Potentially paid by:

- Medicaid (Oregon Health Plan or OHP)
- K Plan

Medicare does not pay for this item.

Bathing aids



Shower chair or tub bench

Many people find it easier to sit while taking a shower. Therefore, there are various items that fit different size shower stalls or bathtubs. Some items resemble a chair, others are simpler like a bench. Many different features are available, such as a shower chair with wheels for a roll-in shower.

Potentially paid by:

- Medicaid (Oregon Health Plan or OHP)
- K Plan

Medicare does not pay for this item.

Grab bars

Grab bars can be installed inside or outside the shower stall. They may also be installed near a toilet to help a person rise from the seat. Grab bars are available in many different lengths.

Potentially paid by:

- Medicaid (Oregon Health Plan or OHP)
- K Plan

Medicare does not pay for this item.



Portable Shower

If a person cannot use a tub or shower in their home or apartment, a portable shower may be helpful. The shower hose connects to a nearby faucet. The design of the shower helps prevent water from spilling outside the stall. A portable shower can fold for storage between each use.

Potentially paid by:

- K Plan

Medicare and Medicaid do not pay for this item.



Transfer devices



Gait belt

A gait belt helps a caregiver lift or help a person to a standing position. The caregiver may also use the gait belt to help the person walk. A gait belt is often used when a person is unsteady when they walk or stand. Also, a gait belt can be used when a person needs help from another person to prevent a fall.

Potentially paid by:

- *Medicaid (Oregon Health Plan or OHP)*
- *K Plan*

Medicare does not pay for this item.

Lift chair

A lift chair is a type of recliner with a built-in motor. This motor tilts the base and back of the chair forward to assist the user in rising to a standing position. It is operated by an electronic control device (similar to a remote) that attaches to the chair. Some lift chairs have different recline positions which a person can select using the same handheld control device.

Potentially paid by:

- *Medicare (partial coverage)*
- *K Plan*

Medicaid (Oregon Health Plan or OHP) does not pay for this item.



Transfer board

A transfer board or sliding board helps to move a person to or from a bed, toilet, chair or other spaces. There are many different kinds of transfer boards.

Potentially paid by:

- *Medicaid (Oregon Health Plan or OHP)*
- *K Plan*

Medicare does not pay for this item.



Transfer pole

A transfer pole can be installed anywhere a person needs help getting up from a seating or lying position. Many people have a transfer pole near their bed. However, they are also useful in a living room or bathroom.

Potentially paid by:

- *Medicaid (Oregon Health Plan or OHP)*
- *K Plan*

Medicare does not pay for this item.



Mobility equipment

Canes, crutches and walkers

Canes, crutches and walkers are examples of equipment that can help a person with mobility. Use of crutches, a cane or a walker can help provide support while walking and standing.

Potentially paid by:

- Medicare
- Medicaid (Oregon Health Plan or OHP)
- K Plan

Note: Medicare and Medicaid cover both canes and walkers, but not at the same time. A person may start out with a cane and for various reasons, need a walker later. Medicare and Medicaid each cover different types of walkers.

- Medicare doesn't cover walkers with seats.
- Medicaid covers walkers with seats only in certain circumstances.



Wheelchairs

A power or manual wheelchair is a chair a person sits in, mounted on wheels. It helps a person who has difficulty walking or who cannot walk.

Potentially paid by:

- Medicare
- Medicaid (Oregon Health Plan or OHP)
- K Plan

Note: Medicare and Medicaid cover wheelchairs when all criteria are met. Some wheelchair accessories are also covered. It's complicated, so it's a good idea to get an evaluation by an assistive technology professional first. Scooters are also covered in limited circumstances.



Compression wear

Compression stockings

Compression stockings are used to improve blood flow in a person's legs. Compression stockings gently squeeze the legs to move blood around. These stockings help prevent swelling. Compression stockings are available in different pressures, from light to strong.

Potentially paid by:

- *Medicaid (Oregon Health Plan or OHP)*
- *K Plan*

Medicare does not pay for this item.



Diabetic goods



Diabetic supplies

Diabetic supplies are items to help a person with diabetes. These include:

- Lancets
- Test strips
- Insulin syringes
- Home glucose

Generally, there is a limit to the number of lancets and test strips provided per month by any payor.

Potentially paid by:

- Medicare
- Medicaid (Oregon Health Plan or OHP)
- K Plan

Shoes for diabetics

There are many different kinds of therapeutic shoes for a person with diabetes. Coverage usually includes custom-molded or extra-depth shoes or inserts. Sometimes Medicare or Medicaid will pay for adjustments in custom-molded shoes. Examples are rigid rocker bottoms, metatarsal bars (met pads), or wedges.

Potentially paid by:

- Medicare
- Medicaid
(Oregon Health Plan or OHP)
- K Plan

Medicare maximum is one pair per year.



Pressure protectors

Heel or elbow protectors

Heel or elbow protectors are padded boots, positioners, or sleeves for a person at risk of pressure sores.

Potentially paid by:

- Medicaid (Oregon Health Plan or OHP)
- K Plan

Medicare does not pay for this item.



Miscellaneous

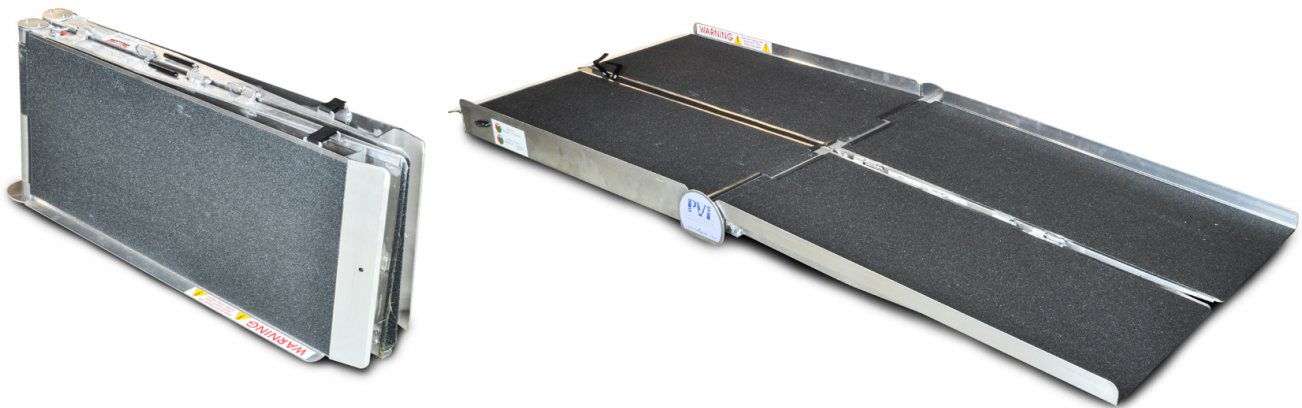
Portable ramp (also called a suitcase ramp)

A suitcase ramp is a portable ramp that is usually made of aluminum. The ramp has a single fold design and anti-slip tread. It is designed for scooter and wheelchair access into buildings that have 1-3 steps. It's usually easy to carry once you fold it.

Potentially paid by:

- K Plan

Medicare and Medicaid (Oregon Health Plan or OHP) do not pay for this item.



Oral nutritional supplements (Ensure®, Boost®, etc.)

Oral nutritional supplements (ONS) come in a sterile liquid, semi-solid or powder form. They help provide a person macronutrients and micronutrients. ONS are not technically DME. However, ONS are sometimes covered by Medicaid if a person has certain diagnoses.

Potentially paid by:

- Medicaid (Oregon Health Plan or OHP)
- K Plan

Medicare does not pay for this item.



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