



Commodes

DOCUMENTATION IN MEDICAL RECORDS REQUIRED BY CMS

Documentation Requirements	Key Items to Address
Duration of patient's condition	Why does the patient require the item?
Clinical course	Do the physical examination findings support the need for the item?
Prognosis	Signs and symptoms that indicate the need for the item
Nature and extent of functional limitations	Diagnoses that are responsible for these signs and symptoms
Other therapeutic interventions and results	Other diagnoses that may relate to the need for the item

A commode (E0163) is covered when the beneficiary is physically incapable of utilizing regular toilet facilities. This would occur in the following situations:

1. The beneficiary is confined to a single room, or
2. The beneficiary is confined to one level of the home environment and there is no toilet on that level, or
3. The beneficiary is confined to the home and there are no toilet facilities in the home.

An extra wide/heavy duty commode chair (E0168) is covered for a beneficiary who weighs 300 pounds or more. If an E0168 commode is ordered and the beneficiary does not weigh more than 300 pounds, it will be denied as not reasonable and necessary.

A commode chair with detachable arms (E0165) is covered if the detachable arms feature is necessary to facilitate transferring the beneficiary or if the beneficiary has a body configuration that requires extra width. If coverage criteria are not met payment will be denied as not reasonable and necessary.

*For some items to be covered by Medicare, a written order prior to delivery (WOPD) is required.