



Hospital Beds

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

HCPCS code(s) affected include the following:

- E0250 – E0251: Fixed height hospital bed
- E0255 – E0256: Variable height hospital bed
- E0260 – E0261: Hospital bed semi-electric (head and foot adjustment)
- E0301 – E0304: Heavy duty hospital bed

Coverage Criteria

A standard fixed height hospital bed is covered if one or more of the following criteria (1-4) are met and documented in the patient's medical record:

1. The patient has a medical condition which requires positioning of the body in ways not feasible with an ordinary bed. Elevation of the head/upper body less than 30 degrees does not usually require the use of a hospital bed, or
2. The patient requires positioning of the body in ways not feasible with an ordinary bed in order to alleviate pain, or
3. The patient requires the head of the bed to be elevated more than 30 degrees most of the time due to congestive heart failure, chronic pulmonary disease, or problems with aspiration, or
4. The patient requires traction equipment, which can only be attached to a hospital bed.

Other types of hospital beds are covered if one or more of the previous criteria are met and documented in the patient's medical record, and:

- Variable height - The patient requires a bed height different than a fixed height hospital bed to permit transfers to chair, wheelchair or standing position.
- Semi-electric - The patient requires frequent changes in body position and/or has an immediate need for a change in body position.
- A heavy duty extra wide - The patient's weight is more than 350 pounds, but does not exceed 600 pounds. Beneficiaries weighing more than 600 pounds would qualify for an extra-heavy duty bed.



Accessories

Certain accessories are often needed as part of the patient's treatment plan. The need for each additional item must be addressed in the Face-to-Face evaluation and documented in the patient's medical record.

The coverage for the most commonly ordered accessories are:

- Trapeze equipment – The patient needs this device to sit up because of a respiratory condition, to change body position for other medical reasons, or to get out of bed.
- Heavy-duty trapeze equipment- The patient meets the criteria for a regular trapeze, but weighs more than 250 pounds.
- Bed cradle – The patient requires this item to prevent contact with the bed coverage
- Side rails – The patient's condition requires this item and they are an integral part of, or an accessory to, a covered hospital bed.

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