

Wheelchair Seating

Guideline Number: CDG.035.02
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[➔ Instructions for Use](#)

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Related Commercial Policies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durable Medical Equipment, Orthotics, Medical Supplies and Repairs/Replacements • Manual Wheelchairs • Power Mobility Devices • Wheelchair Options and Accessories
Community Plan Policy
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Coverage Rationale

Indications for Coverage

Wheelchair Seating is proven and medically necessary in certain circumstances. For medical necessity clinical coverage criteria, refer to the InterQual® 2021, July 2021 Release, Medicare: Durable Medical Equipment, Wheelchair Seating.

Click [here](#) to view the InterQual® criteria.

Repair, Replacement, and Upgrade

Replacement

Replacement of DME is for the same or similar type of equipment which is beyond its reasonable useful life span and has become irreparable.

Upgrade

The physician provides documentation that the condition of the member changes (e.g., impaired function necessitates an upgrade to an electric wheelchair from a manual one).

General Criteria

- Routine wear on the equipment renders it non-functional and the member still requires the equipment.
 - Vendors/manufacturers are responsible for repairs, replacements, and maintenance for rented equipment and for purchased equipment covered by warranty.
 - Coverage includes DME obtained in a physician’s office, DME vendor, or any other provider authorized to provide/dispense DME.
- Unless otherwise stated, DME has a Reasonable Useful Lifetime (RUL) of 5 years.

Note: A new prescription isn't needed if the needs of the patient are the same.

Equipment Upgrades

- A change in the member’s medical condition and equipment needs requires the same documentation as a new request.
- Equipment upgrades are equivalent to a new service.

Coverage Limitations and Exclusions

When more than one piece of DME can meet the member's functional needs, benefits are available only for the item that meets the minimum specifications for member needs. Examples include but are not limited to standard electric wheelchair vs. custom wheelchair.

The following services are excluded from coverage:

- Personal care, comfort or convenience items, including but not limited to supplies, equipment, and similar incidental services and supplies for personal comfort.
- Replacement of items due to malicious damage, neglect or abuse.
- Replacement of lost or stolen items.
- Upgrade or replacement of DME when the existing equipment is still functional. Refer to the [Repair, Replacement, and Upgrade](#) section.

Definitions

The following definitions may not apply to all plans. Refer to the member specific benefit plan document for applicable definitions.

Durable Medical Equipment (DME): Medical Equipment that is all of the following:

- Ordered or provided by a Physician for outpatient use primarily in a home setting
- Used for medical purposes
- Not consumable or disposable except as needed for the effective use of covered DME
- Not of use to a person in the absence of a disease or disability
- Serves a medical purpose for the treatment of a Sickness or injury
- Primarily used within the home

Medically Necessary: Health Care Services that are all of the following as determined by us or our designee.

- In accordance with Generally Accepted Standards of Medical Practice
- Clinically appropriate, in terms of type, frequency, extent, service site and duration, and considered effective for your Sickness, Injury, Mental Illness, substance-related and addictive disorders, disease or its symptoms
- Not mainly for your convenience or that of your doctor or other health care provider
- Not more costly than an alternative drug, service(s), service site or supply that is at least as likely to produce equivalent therapeutic or diagnostic results as to the diagnosis or treatment of your Sickness, Injury, disease or symptoms

Mobility Device: A manual wheelchair, electric wheelchair, transfer chair or scooter.

Reasonable Useful Lifetime: RUL is the expected minimum lifespan for the item. It starts on the initial date of service and runs for the defined length of time. The default RUL for durable medical equipment is set at 5 years. RUL is also applied to other non-DME items such as orthoses and prostheses. RUL is not applied to supply items.

Applicable Codes

The following list(s) of procedure and/or diagnosis codes is provided for reference purposes only and may not be all inclusive. Listing of a code in this guideline does not imply that the service described by the code is a covered or non-covered health service. Benefit coverage for health services is determined by the member specific benefit plan document and applicable laws that may require coverage for a specific service. The inclusion of a code does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee claim payment. Other Policies and Guidelines may apply.

UnitedHealthcare has adopted the requirements and intent of the National Correct Coding Initiative. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has contracted with Palmetto to manage Pricing, Data and Coding (PDAC) for Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics and Supplies (DMEPOS). This notice is to confirm UnitedHealthcare has established the PDAC as a source for correct coding and coding clarification.

HCPCS Code	Description
Seat Cushions	
E2601	General use wheelchair seat cushion, width less than 22 in, any depth
E2602	General use wheelchair seat cushion, width 22 in or greater, any depth
E2603	Skin protection wheelchair seat cushion, width less than 22 in, any depth
E2604	Skin protection wheelchair seat cushion, width 22 in or greater, any depth
E2605	Positioning wheelchair seat cushion, width less than 22 in, any depth
E2606	Positioning wheelchair seat cushion, width 22 in or greater, any depth
E2607	Skin protection and positioning wheelchair seat cushion, width less than 22 in, any depth
E2608	Skin protection and positioning wheelchair seat cushion, width 22 in or greater, any depth
E2609	Custom fabricated wheelchair seat cushion, any size
E2610	Wheelchair seat cushion, powered
E2622	Skin protection wheelchair seat cushion, adjustable, width less than 22 in, any depth
E2623	Skin protection wheelchair seat cushion, adjustable, width 22 in or greater, any depth
E2624	Skin protection and positioning wheelchair seat cushion, adjustable, width less than 22 in, any depth
E2625	Skin protection and positioning wheelchair seat cushion, adjustable, width 22 in or greater, any depth
Back Cushions	
E2611	General use wheelchair back cushion, width less than 22 in, any height, including any type mounting hardware
E2612	General use wheelchair back cushion, width 22 in or greater, any height, including any type mounting hardware
E2613	Positioning wheelchair back cushion, posterior, width less than 22 in, any height, including any type mounting hardware
E2614	Positioning wheelchair back cushion, posterior, width 22 in or greater, any height, including any type mounting hardware
E2615	Positioning wheelchair back cushion, posterior-lateral, width less than 22 in, any height, including any type mounting hardware
E2616	Positioning wheelchair back cushion, posterior-lateral, width 22 in or greater, any height, including any type mounting hardware
E2617	Custom fabricated wheelchair back cushion, any size, including any type mounting hardware
E2620	Positioning wheelchair back cushion, planar back with lateral supports, width less than 22 in, any height, including any type mounting hardware
E2621	Positioning wheelchair back cushion, planar back with lateral supports, width 22 in or greater, any height, including any type mounting hardware
Positioning Accessories	
E0953	Wheelchair accessory, lateral thigh or knee support, any type including fixed mounting hardware, each
E0955	Wheelchair accessory, headrest, cushioned, any type, including fixed mounting hardware, each
E0956	Wheelchair accessory, lateral trunk or hip support, any type, including fixed mounting hardware, each
E0957	Wheelchair accessory, medial thigh support, any type, including fixed mounting hardware, each
E0960	Wheelchair accessory, shoulder harness/straps or chest strap, including any type mounting hardware
E0966	Manual wheelchair accessory, headrest extension, each
E1028	Wheelchair accessory, manual swingaway, retractable or removable mounting hardware for joystick, other control interface or positioning accessory
Miscellaneous	
E0992	Manual wheelchair accessory, solid seat insert

HCPCS Code	Description
Miscellaneous	
E2231	Manual wheelchair accessory, solid seat support base (replaces sling seat), includes any type mounting hardware
E2291	Back, planar, for pediatric size wheelchair including fixed attaching hardware
E2292	Seat, planar, for pediatric size wheelchair including fixed attaching hardware
E2293	Back, contoured, for pediatric size wheelchair including fixed attaching hardware
E2294	Seat, contoured, for pediatric size wheelchair including fixed attaching hardware
E2619	Replacement cover for wheelchair seat cushion or back cushion, each
K0108	Wheelchair component or accessory, not otherwise specified
K0669	Wheelchair accessory, wheelchair seat or back cushion, does not meet specific code criteria or no written coding verification from DME PDAC

References

Noridian Healthcare Solutions: <https://med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jddme/article-detail/-/view/2230703/reasonable-useful-lifetime-and-duplicate-items-billing-reminder>. Accessed January 15, 2021

UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company Generic Certificate of Coverage 2018.

Guideline History/Revision Information

Date	Summary of Changes
09/01/2021	<p>Coverage Rationale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replaced reference to “InterQual 2021, Apr. 2021 Release” with “InterQual 2021, July 2021 Release” <p>Supporting Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archived previous policy version CDG.035.01

Instructions for Use

This Coverage Determination Guideline provides assistance in interpreting UnitedHealthcare standard benefit plans. When deciding coverage, the member specific benefit plan document must be referenced as the terms of the member specific benefit plan may differ from the standard plan. In the event of a conflict, the member specific benefit plan document governs. Before using this guideline, please check the member specific benefit plan document and any applicable federal or state mandates. UnitedHealthcare reserves the right to modify its Policies and Guidelines as necessary. This Coverage Determination Guideline is provided for informational purposes. It does not constitute medical advice.

This Coverage Determination Guideline may also be applied to Medicare Advantage plans in certain instances. In the absence of a Medicare National Coverage Determination (NCD), Local Coverage Determination (LCD), or other Medicare coverage guidance, CMS allows a Medicare Advantage Organization (MAO) to create its own coverage determinations, using objective evidence-based rationale relying on authoritative evidence ([Medicare IOM Pub. No. 100-16, Ch. 4, §90.5](#)).

UnitedHealthcare may also use tools developed by third parties, such as the InterQual® criteria, to assist us in administering health benefits. UnitedHealthcare Coverage Determination Guidelines are intended to be used in connection with the independent professional medical judgment of a qualified health care provider and do not constitute the practice of medicine or medical advice.