


MEDICAL POLICY	Walkers (All Lines of Business Except Medicare)
Effective Date: 8/1/2022	Medical Policy Number: 212
 8/1/2022	Medical Policy Committee Approved Date: 1/03; 9/04; 7/05; 1/07; 7/07; 1/08; 3/08; 5/10; 2/12; 6/13; 9/14; 10/15; 1/16; 7/16; 8/17; 4/18; 8/19; 6/2020; 7/2021; 7/2022
Medical Officer	Date

See Policy CPT/HCPCS CODE section below for any prior authorization requirements

SCOPE:

Providence Health Plan, Providence Health Assurance, Providence Plan Partners, and Ayin Health Solutions as applicable (referred to individually as “Company” and collectively as “Companies”).

APPLIES TO:

All lines of business except Medicare

BENEFIT APPLICATION

Medicaid Members

Oregon: Services requested for Oregon Health Plan (OHP) members follow the OHP Prioritized List and Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) as the primary resource for coverage determinations. Medical policy criteria below may be applied when there are no criteria available in the OARs and the OHP Prioritized List.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

While the codes in this medical policy are not subject to routine review for medical necessity, the following documentation must be in the medical record to support medically necessity has been established:

- Type of walker requested (e.g., standard, heavy duty, with or without multiple braking system or enclosure, etc.);
- Documentation of mobility limitations which impact mobility-related activities of daily living (MRADLs);
- All medical records and chart notes relevant to the request, including documentation to support that the patient can use a walker, that a walker will sufficiently address mobility limitations, the patient’s weight and height, any severe neurologic disorder or other condition causing the restricted use of one hand;

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- If a walker with trunk support is requested, documentation to support the need for this feature is also required.

POLICY CRITERIA

Standard Walkers

- I. A standard walker (E0130, E0135, E0141, E0143) and related accessories may be considered **medically necessary** when **all** of the following criteria (A.-C.) are met:
 - A. The patient has a mobility limitation that significantly impairs his/her ability to participate in one or more mobility-related activities of daily living (MRADL) in the home. A mobility limitation is one that (1.-3.):
 - 1. Prevents the patient from accomplishing the MRADL entirely, **or**
 - 2. Places the patient at reasonably determined heightened risk of morbidity or mortality secondary to the attempts to perform the MRADL, **or**
 - 3. Prevents the patient from completing the MRADL within a reasonable time frame; **and**
 - B. The patient is able to safely use the walker; **and**
 - C. The functional mobility deficit can be sufficiently resolved with use of a walker.
- II. A standard walker (E0130, E0135, E0141, E0143) and related accessories is considered **not medically necessary and not covered** when criterion I. above is not met.

Heavy Duty Walkers

- III. A heavy duty walker (E0148, E0149) may be considered **medically necessary** when **both** of the following criteria (A. and B.) are met:
 - A. The patient meets coverage criteria for a standard walker (see Criterion I); **and**
 - B. The patient weighs more than 300 pounds.
- IV. A heavy duty walker is considered **not medically necessary and is not covered** when the above criterion III. is not met.

Heavy Duty Multiple Braking System Walker

- V. A heavy duty, multiple braking system, variable wheel resistance walker (E0147) may be considered **medically necessary** when **both** of the following criteria (A. and B.) are met:

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- A. The patient meets the criteria for a standard walker (see Criterion I); **and**
- B. Patient is unable to use a standard walker due to either of the following (A.-B.):
 - 1. A severe neurologic disorder; **or**
 - 2. Condition causing the restricted use of one hand.

Note: Obesity alone is not a sufficient reason for an E0147 walker.

VI. A heavy duty, multiple braking system, variable wheel resistance walker is considered **not medically necessary and is not covered** when the above criterion V. is not met.

Walker with Trunk Support

VII. A walker with trunk support (E0140) may be considered **medically necessary** when **both** of the following criteria (A. and B.) are met:

- A. The patient meets the criteria for a standard walker (see Criterion I); **and**
- B. Documentation in the medical record justifies the medical necessity for the special features.

VIII. A walker with trunk support is considered **not medically necessary is not covered** when the above criterion VII. is not met.

Enclosed Frame Walkers

IX. A walker with an enclosed frame (E0144) is considered **not medically necessary and is not covered**.

Accessories

- X. Leg extensions (E0158) may be considered **medically necessary** if the patient is 6 feet or taller.
- XI. Leg extensions are considered **not medically necessary and not covered** when criterion X. above is not met.
- XII. Enhancement accessories (accessories or features which do not contribute to the therapeutic function of the walker, such as style, color, hand operated brakes [other than those described in code E0147], baskets or equivalent items) will be denied as **not medically necessary and not covered**.

Replacements

XIII. Replacement of a walker may be considered **medically necessary** for member-owned walkers when any of the following are met (A.-D.):

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- A. There is a change in the physical condition of the patient; **or**
 - B. When replacement is needed due to irreparable *damage* (e.g., fire, flood, etc.) or if the existing walker is lost or stolen; **or**
 - C. When replacement is needed due to irreparable *wear* and when the reasonable useful lifetime (RUL) of the equipment has been reached (at least 5 years) and the equipment has been in continuous use by the patient; **or**
 - D. The cost to repair the existing walker exceeds the purchase price of a replacement.
- XIV. Replacement of walker components (e.g., handgrip, tip, brake attachment, seat attachments, etc.) may be considered **medically necessary** for member-owned walkers.
- XV. Replacement of rented walkers or components of a rented walker is considered **not medically necessary and not covered**.

POLICY GUIDELINES

General

This policy may be primarily based on the following Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) guidances:

- Local Coverage Determination (LCD): Walkers (L33791)¹
- Local Coverage Article (LCA): Walkers (A52503)²

BILLING GUIDELINES

The only walkers that should be billed using HCPCS code E0147 are products which have received a written Coding Verification Review by the Medicare Pricing, Data Analysis and Coding (PDAC) Contractor and are published on the Product Classification List. As of the date of this policy update, there are only two (2) products eligible to be reported with this HCPCS code. Those items are:

- U-Step and U-Step II Walking Stabilizer (In-Step Mobility Products)

Please see LCA A52503 for additional walker coding guidelines, including what HCPCS codes are considered bundled and not separately reimbursable when provided at the same time as the base walker.

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CPT/HCPCS CODES

All Lines of Business Except Medicare	
No Prior Authorization Required	
A4636	Replacement, handgrip, cane, crutch, or walker, each
A4637	Replacement, tip, cane, crutch, walker, each
E0130	Walker, rigid (pickup), adjustable or fixed height
E0135	Walker, folding (pickup), adjustable or fixed height
E0140	Walker, with trunk support, adjustable or fixed height, any type
E0141	Walker, rigid, wheeled, adjustable or fixed height
E0143	Walker, folding, wheeled, adjustable or fixed height
E0147	Walker, heavy duty, multiple braking system, variable wheel resistance
E0148	Walker, heavy duty, without wheels, rigid or folding, any type, each
E0149	Walker, heavy duty, wheeled, rigid or folding, any type
E0154	Platform attachment, walker, each
E0155	Wheel attachment, rigid pick-up walker, per pair
E0156	Seat attachment, walker
E0157	Crutch attachment, walker, each
E0158	Leg extensions for walker, per set of four (4)
E0159	Brake attachment for wheeled walker, replacement, each
Not Covered	
E0144	Walker, enclosed, four sided framed, rigid or folding, wheeled with posterior seat
Unlisted Codes	
All unlisted codes will be reviewed for medical necessity, correct coding, and pricing at the claim level. If an unlisted code is billed related to services addressed in this policy then it MAY be denied as Not Covered .	
A9900	Miscellaneous DME supply, accessory, and/or service component of another HCPCS code
E1399	Durable medical equipment, miscellaneous

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

Company Medical Policies serve as guidance for the administration of plan benefits. Medical policies do not constitute medical advice nor a guarantee of coverage. Company Medical Policies are reviewed annually and are based upon published, peer-reviewed scientific evidence and evidence-based clinical practice guidelines that are available as of the last policy update. The Companies reserve the right to determine the application of Medical Policies and make revisions to Medical Policies at any time. Providers will be given at least 60-days’ notice of policy changes that are restrictive in nature.

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The scope and availability of all plan benefits are determined in accordance with the applicable coverage agreement. Any conflict or variance between the terms of the coverage agreement and Company Medical Policy will be resolved in favor of the coverage agreement.

REGULATORY STATUS

Mental Health Parity Statement

Coverage decisions are made on the basis of individualized determinations of medical necessity and the experimental or investigational character of the treatment in the individual case. In cases where medical necessity is not established by policy for specific treatment modalities, evidence not previously considered regarding the efficacy of the modality that is presented shall be given consideration to determine if the policy represents current standards of care.

REFERENCES

1. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid. Local Coverage Determination (LCD): Walkers (L33791). <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/lcd-details.aspx?LCDId=33791>. Published 2020. Accessed 6/17/2022.
2. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Local Coverage Article: Walkers - Policy Article (A52503). <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/article-details.aspx?articleId=52503>. Published 2020. Accessed 6/17/2022.