



MEDICAL POLICY

MEDICAL POLICY DETAILS	
Medical Policy Title	STANDING DEVICES AND GAIT TRAINERS
Policy Number	1.01.46
Category	Equipment/Supplies
Effective Date	01/20/05
Revised Date	02/23/06, 02/22/07, 02/28/08, 04/23/09, 08/27/09, 02/25/10, 02/24/11, 02/27/12, 02/28/13, 02/27/14
Archived Date	02/26/15
Edited Date	02/25/16, 02/23/17, 2/22/18, 02/28/19, 02/27/20
Product Disclaimer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>If a product excludes coverage for a service, it is not covered, and medical policy criteria do not apply.</i> • <i>If a commercial product (including an Essential Plan product) or a Medicaid product covers a specific service, medical policy criteria apply to the benefit.</i> • <i>If a Medicare product covers a specific service, and there is no national or local Medicare coverage decision for the service, medical policy criteria apply to the benefit.</i>

POLICY STATEMENT

- I. Based upon our criteria, a standing device is considered **medically appropriate** when the following criteria are met:
- A. There is documentation that the standing device is necessary for the patient to be independent in one or more of the following activities of daily living in the patient's home:
1. Eating,
 2. Personal hygiene,
 3. Toileting,
 4. Dressing, or
 5. Transfer.
- AND**
- B. The patient is unable to accomplish the above activities with their current durable medical equipment.
- II. Based upon our criteria, a standing device is considered **medically appropriate** when the following criteria are met:
- A. There is documentation that off-loading of a decubitus ulcer cannot be accomplished by other means.
- AND**
- B. The individual has completed a one-month trial using the standing device and has shown meaningful improvement after the trial period. If there has been no documented trial period and the patient meets criteria (refer to Policy Statement I or II), initial coverage is limited to the one month only. Documentation from the referring provider that the patient has shown meaningful improvement during the trial period must be submitted, to be eligible for continued of coverage.
- III. Based upon our criteria, a gait trainer is considered **medically appropriate** when **ALL** of the following criteria are met:
- A. There is documentation of the patient's mobility limitation as described in Policy Guideline II; and
 - B. The patient has the potential for ambulation; and
 - C. The patient is unable to accomplish the above activities with their current durable medical equipment.

POLICY GUIDELINES

- I. Coverage of durable medical equipment is contract dependent unless required under federal or state mandates. Please refer to your Customer (Member/Provider) Service Department to determine contract coverage.

Medical Policy: STANDING DEVICES AND GAIT TRAINERS

Policy Number: 1.01.46

Page: 2 of 4

- II. Standing devices and gait trainers require individualized, patient specific medical justification from the patient's orthopedic surgeon, neurologist, developmental pediatrician, or psychiatrist to determine medical necessity. Justification must be submitted for review which includes the patient's diagnosis, a narrative description with functional criteria for the standing device or gait trainer, and any requested non-standard features, including wheels. At a minimum, such documentation must include **ALL** of the following:
- A. Diagnosis, prognosis and severity of condition;
 - B. A description of functional goals and current standing/gait training program;
 - C. Reevaluation of the member at the end of the trial period for the standing/gait training program (e.g., how long and how many times per day or week the standing device or gait trainer was used and documented effectiveness of the standing/gait training trial program);
 - D. History of standing and compliance when a standing device is requested; assessment of ability to ambulate or potential to ambulate when a gait trainer is requested.
 - E. List of the alternatives that were considered and rejected;
 - F. If nonstandard features are requested (e.g., mobile [wheeled] or multi-positional standing device) an explanation as to why a standard device is inadequate for the particular activity or indication and a statement that other standard devices have been trialed and found inadequate to meet the patient's needs;
 - G. Other durable medical equipment that the patient currently uses; and
 - H. Relevant medical records. The device if a "custodial" resident of a nursing facility or resident of an assisted living facility.
- III. For a person who is inpatient in a skilled nursing facility (SNF), and maintains a skilled status, all durable medical equipment, including standing devices, are considered global to the SNF reimbursement

DESCRIPTION

A *standing device* (sometimes called a *stander*) is a device that enables the user of a wheeled mobility device (wheelchair or wheelchair and seated positioning system) to achieve a passive standing position. The devices are available by physician prescription only. There are three basic types of standing device: supine, prone, and upright. Supine standers (e.g., Rifton Supine Standers) support the back surface of the body and require the least amount of trunk and head control. Prone standers (e.g., Leckey Freestander, Jenx Monkey, Rifton Prone Stander) support the front of the body while the user is supported in various angles. Upright standers are used primarily in the vertical position by individuals who have fair to good trunk and head control. Multi-positional standers (e.g., Tumbleform Tristander 45/58[®], Tumbleform 2[®]Tristander, Easy Stand[®] Magician-ei, Easy Stand Bantum) combine all three types of standers into a single stander to allow for a variety of positioning needs. They are equipped with cushions to secure the head, trunk, hip, knees and feet. A foot operated pneumatic tilt permits the angle of the stander to be adjusted.

Standing devices have been proposed for patients who are wheelchair dependent including, but not limited to, patients with cerebral palsy, spinal cord injuries, muscular dystrophy, paraplegia, quadriplegia, and paralytic syndromes.

A *gait trainer* is an assistive device that enables a patient to be placed in an upright position to learn or relearn mobility skills safely and efficiently. Gait trainers are lightweight and may be equipped with armrests, seat and chest support which may be removed when no longer necessary.

Meaningful improvement after a one month trial may include: improvement in the functional use of the arms hands, or head and trunk control, in the performance of activities of daily living (ADLs), in digestive, respiratory, circulatory or excretory function, or in skin integrity, by off-loading weight through standing (e.g., relief of pressure sores not achievable by other means). Improvements in skin integrity may include lack of progression or signs of healing in the decubiti ulcer.

RATIONALE

Though standing programs as a therapeutic modality have been part of the program of management of children with developmental disorders and children and adults with spinal cord injuries for many years, there is very limited evidence in the peer reviewed literature of improvement in health outcomes attributable to standing.

Medical Policy: STANDING DEVICES AND GAIT TRAINERS

Policy Number: 1.01.46

Page: 3 of 4

Studies of very small groups of children suggest that weight-bearing activity may stimulate accrual of bone and reduction in muscle tone, however no reports of fracture rates or other health outcomes including bladder/bowel function, or incidence of contractures related to standing programs were found in a search of the scientific literature. While no studies of skin integrity related to standing programs were found, off-weighting of pressure areas is essential to treatment of skin breakdown.

CODES

- Eligibility for reimbursement is based upon the benefits set forth in the member's subscriber contract.
- **CODES MAY NOT BE COVERED UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES. PLEASE READ THE POLICY AND GUIDELINES STATEMENTS CAREFULLY.**
- Codes may not be all inclusive as the AMA and CMS code updates may occur more frequently than policy updates.

CPT Codes

Code	Description
No code(s)	

Copyright © 2020 American Medical Association, Chicago, IL

HCPCS Codes

Code	Description
E0638	Standing frame system, one position (e.g., upright, supine or prone stander), any size including pediatric, with or without wheels
E0641	Standing frame system, multi-position (e.g., three way stander), any size including pediatric, with or without wheels
E0642	Standing frame system, mobile (dynamic stander), any size including pediatric
E2230	Manual wheelchair accessory, manual standing system
E2301	Power wheelchair accessory, power standing system, any type
E8000	Gait trainer, pediatric size, posterior support, includes all accessories and components
E8001	Gait trainer, pediatric size, upright support, includes all accessories and components
E8002	Gait trainer, pediatric size, anterior support, includes all accessories and components

ICD10 Codes

Code	Description
Numerous	

REFERENCES

*Eng JJ, et al. Use of prolonged standing for individuals with spinal cord injuries. Phys Ther 2001 Aug;81(8):1392-9.

Hough JP, et al. Systematic review of interventions for low bone mineral density in children with cerebral palsy. Pediatrics 2010 Mar;125(3):e670-8.

*Key Article

KEY WORDS

Passive standing, stander, standing device, gait trainer

Medical Policy: STANDING DEVICES AND GAIT TRAINERS

Policy Number: 1.01.46

Page: 4 of 4

CMS COVERAGE FOR MEDICARE PRODUCT MEMBERS

There is currently no National (NCD) or Local Coverage Determination (LCD) for standing devices or gait trainers. Standing devices with the following HCPCS codes (E0638, E0641, E0642, E8000, E8001, E8002) are considered non-covered. Please refer to the following NCD for Durable Medical Equipment Reference List website for Medicare Members: <http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/ncd-details.aspx?NCDId=190&ncdver=2&NCAId=3&ver=5&NcaName=Air-Fluidized+Beds+for+Pressure+Ulcers&bc=ACAAAAAIAAA&>