



"So celebrate what you've accomplished, but raise the bar a little higher each time you succeed."

-Mia Hamm, US Soccer Star

Hospital Beds

Have you had any patients or clients in need of a hospital bed but your not quite sure if they qualify? Maybe, you just want to learn what Medicare's criteria is for coverage on the different types of beds available. This issue will give a brief overview of Medicare's criteria regarding hospital beds and accessories.

A **fixed height hospital bed** may be covered if the following criteria are met:

- 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
- The patient requires positioning of the body in ways not feasible with an ordinary bed in order to alleviate pain, or
- 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. Pillows or wedges must have been considered and ruled out, or
- The patient requires traction equipment, which can only be attached to a hospital bed.

A **variable height hospital bed** may be covered if the patient meets one of the criteria for a fixed height hospital bed and requires a bed height different than a fixed height hospital bed to permit transfers to chair, wheelchair or standing position.

A **semi-electric hospital bed** may be covered if the patient meets one of the criteria for a fixed height bed and requires frequent changes in body position and/or has an immediate need for a change in body position.

A **heavy-duty extra wide hospital bed** may be covered if the patient meets one of the criteria for a fixed height hospital bed and the patient's weight is more than 350 pounds, but does not exceed 600 pounds. Over 600 pounds would be classified as an **extra heavy-duty hospital bed**.

A **full electric hospital bed** is not a covered benefit of Medicare. The height adjustment feature is considered a convenience feature and not medically necessary.

This information was taken from the LCD for hospital beds and accessories. We understand this is a lot of information to go through and deciding on which type of bed can be stressful. Let us help, give us a call so that our professionals can help get the right bed for you or your patient and we can explain what insurance may cover.



Hospital Bed Accessories:

- **Trapeze equipment** may be covered if the patient needs this device to sit up because of a respiratory condition to change body position for other medical reasons, or to get in or out of bed. If the patient weighs more than 250 pounds **heavy duty trapeze** equipment would be necessary if the previous criteria is met.
- A **bed cradle** may be covered when it is necessary to prevent contact with the bed coverings.
- **Side rails** or **safety enclosures** may be covered when they are required by the patient's condition and they are an integral part of, or an accessory to, a covered hospital bed.

Fun Facts

- * April showers bring May flowers. The flower for the month of May is Lily-of-the-Valley which means "sweetness" or "return to happiness."
- * The birthstone for this month is the beautiful green Emerald.

Thai Chicken, Mango & Pineapple Salad

Ingredients:

- 1 (14oz) can regular or light coconut milk
- 1 tablespoon Thai red curry paste, or more to taste
- 2 teaspoons freshly grated orange zest
- 1/2 cup fresh orange juice
- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1-inch chunks
- 1 mango, peeled, cored, and cut into 1-inch chunks
- 1 pineapple, peeled, cored, and cut into 1-inch chunks
- 4 cups salad greens

Instructions:

1. In a bowl, whisk together the coconut milk, red curry paste, orange zest, and orange juice and reserve 1/2 cup of the mixture in a separate container. In a ziplock bag, toss together the chicken breast chunks and half of the marinade from the bowl. Toss the fruit and the remaining marinade in another ziplock bag. Let the food marinate at room temperature for 15 to 30 minutes.
2. Prepare a charcoal fire or heat a gas grill to medium-high, and oil the grates. Thread the chicken and fruit pieces onto separate skewers.
3. Grill the skewered chicken for 3 to 4 minutes per side, turning once, or until the chicken is cooked through. Grill the fruit skewers for 2 minutes per side, turning once, or until you have visible grill marks. Remove the meat and fruit from the skewers and serve them over salad greens drizzled with the reserved marinade. Serves 4

*Meat and fruit can also be served with steamed rice and side salads.

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Are there certain medical equipment topics or criteria you are interested in learning more about? If so, let us know. Send us an email or give us a call and we will gladly help you find the information you are looking for.

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"WE'RE NOT THE OLDEST OR THE LARGEST, JUST THE BEST"

