

Medicare-Approved Durable Medical Equipment

When the daily activities of life become too challenging due to age, declining health, a chronic disease or injury, there is equipment available to assist you at home—and Medicare may cover it.

Assistive Equipment for Home that Makes Life Easier

Durable medical equipment (DME) is equipment that can be used at home to assist individuals with daily tasks, making home safer and easier to navigate. For those with increased mobility issues or critical support needs like oxygen, access to DME may be the only way they can remain independent at home.

If you or a loved one is dealing with a medical challenge that requires DME, Medicare will typically cover it as long as it meets certain criteria:

- Use of equipment serves a medical purpose
- Equipment is used repeatedly for daily needs
- Primary use of equipment is for inside the home
- Expected to last at least three years



Examples of DME that Medicare Covers

While Medicare coverage depends on your individual plan, the type of DME it covers is typically the same. Examples of Medicare-approved DME include:

- Walkers
- Wheelchairs
- Power scooters
- Commode chairs
- Hospital beds
- Portable oxygen equipment
- Infusion equipment & supplies
- And more!

Does Medicare coverage vary based on my health plan?

The short answer is yes.

- Anyone who has Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance) can get DME as long as the equipment is deemed medically necessary.
- Medicare Advantage Plans must cover the same medically necessary items and services as original Medicare (Parts A and B); your specific costs are dependent on which Medicare Advantage Plan you have.

To learn exactly what types of DME you are entitled to under your existing Medicare plan, consult with your physician and your Medicare Advantage provider.

How do I request Medicare-approved DME for my home?

If you or a loved one are experiencing difficulty with performing certain daily activities, ask your doctor if home medical equipment could be a good option to lessen the burden or enhance your safety at home. Your doctor will likely ask you a few follow-up questions about your situation. If they agree you would benefit from it and you meet the criteria for Medicare-approved DME, they will write you a prescription for it.

It's important to note that Medicare will not pay for equipment that does not meet Medicare guidelines. Any specific information that qualifies a patient for equipment must be documented in the patient's medical record before a prescription is written by the physician. This is something your physician's office will handle for you.

Does it matter which DME company I use?

Just like you choose your physician, home health agency or hospice provider, you can also choose the DME company you prefer to use. Your physician may make recommendations on DME companies, but the decision regarding who you use is up to you.

Get the Most Out of Your Medicare Coverage With These Resources

[Check if the DME you need is covered by Medicare](#)

This easy-to-use feature on the Medicare website allows you to type in the name of the DME you're looking for, which prompts the system to return results on coverage for that item. Medicare coverage for many tests, items and services depends on where you live. This list only includes tests, items and services (covered and non-covered) if the coverage is the same no matter where you live.

[Find a Medicare-approved DME supplier in your area](#)

Find medical equipment and Medicare-approved suppliers in your area with this search feature on medicare.gov. Simply type in what you're looking for and the system will return results of Medicare-approved DME suppliers in your area that have the item you need.

[Find Medicare-approved healthcare providers and services](#)

Search the online directory of Medicare-approved healthcare providers and services on medicare.gov.

As the nation's first home care company, Interim HealthCare has been helping individuals receive the care and support they need to live safely and independently at home since 1966. If you would benefit from DME, reach out to your physician to find out if you qualify. And, if you need support with the activities of daily living, contact Interim HealthCare to learn how we can help!

[interimhealthcare.com](https://www.interimhealthcare.com)