

13.5 SEAT LIFT MECHANISMS

HCPCS Codes

EO627 Seat lift mechanism incorporated into a combination lift - chair mechanism.

EO628 Separate seat lift mechanism for use with patient owned furniture - electric.

EO629 Separate seat lift mechanism for use with patient owned furniture - non-electric.

Benefit Category: Durable Medical Equipment

Reference: Coverage Issues Manual 60-8

Indications

A seat lift mechanism is covered if *all* of the following criteria is met:

1. The patient must have severe arthritis of the hip or knee, or have a severe neuromuscular disease.
2. The seat lift mechanism must be a part of the physician's course of treatment and be prescribed to effect improvement, or arrest or retard deterioration in the patient's condition.
3. The patient must be completely incapable of standing up from a regular armchair or any chair in their home.

(The fact that a patient has difficulty or is even incapable of getting up from a chair, particularly a low chair, is not sufficient justification for a seat lift mechanism. Almost all patients who are capable of ambulating can get out of an ordinary chair, if the seat height is appropriate and the chair has arms.)

4. Once standing the patient must have the ability to ambulate.

Coverage and Payment Rules

Coverage of seat lift mechanisms is limited to those types that operate smoothly, can be controlled by the patient, and effectively assist a patient in standing up and sitting down without other assistance. Excluded from coverage is the type of lift that operates by spring release mechanism with a sudden, catapult-like motion, and jolts the patient from a seated to a standing position.

Coverage is limited to the seat lift mechanism, even if it is incorporated into a chair (EO627). Payment for a seatlift mechanism incorporated into a chair (EO627) is based on the allowance for the least costly alternative (EO628, EO629).

The physician ordering the seat lift mechanism must be the attending physician or a consulting physician for the disease or condition resulting in the need for a seat lift. The physician's record must document that all appropriate therapeutic modalities (e.g., medication, physical therapy) have been tried and failed to enable the patient to transfer from a chair to a standing position.