Introduction

A patient lift is used to safely move a patient who is unable to move themselves from a bed to a chair or between other locations. Patient lifts are used in hospitals, nursing homes, and in home health care. Patient lifts come in different types. Some are operated by hydraulic power, others are electric, and yet others combine support with the patient’s own strength. They may be either a sling lift or a sit-to-stand lift. This guideline explains when these items are covered.

Note: The Introduction section is for your general knowledge and is not to be taken as policy coverage criteria. The rest of the policy uses specific words and concepts familiar to medical professionals. It is intended for providers. A provider can be a person, such as a doctor, nurse, psychologist, or dentist. A provider also can be a place where medical care is given, like a hospital, clinic, or lab. This policy informs them about when a service may be covered.

Coverage Guidelines

If benefit coverage for durable medical equipment is available, the following criteria apply.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equipment</th>
<th>Coverage Guidelines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patient lifts (E0630, E0639)</td>
<td>Mechanical/hydraulic patient lifts (non-electric) may be considered medically necessary durable medical equipment (DME) when ALL of the following criteria are met:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>Coverage Guidelines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Transferring the member between the bed and a chair, wheelchair, or commode requires the assistance of more than one person  &lt;br&gt;<strong>AND</strong>  &lt;br&gt;• Without the use of a patient lift, the member would be bed-confined</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Seat lift mechanisms (E0629)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mechanical/hydraulic seat lift (non-electric) mechanisms may be considered medically necessary durable medical equipment (DME) when ALL of the following criteria are met:</strong>  &lt;br&gt;• The member has severe arthritis of the hip or knee or has severe neuromuscular disease  &lt;br&gt;<strong>AND</strong>  &lt;br&gt;• The seat lift mechanism is prescribed to improve health status or arrest or retard deterioration in the member’s condition  &lt;br&gt;<strong>AND</strong>  &lt;br&gt;• The member is incapable of standing up from any regular chair with or without arms in the home  &lt;br&gt;<strong>AND</strong>  &lt;br&gt;• Once the member stands, he/she has the ability to ambulate.  &lt;br&gt;<strong>Spring-release seat lift devices are considered not medically necessary.</strong>  &lt;br&gt;<strong>Note:</strong> A spring-release mechanism uses a catapult-type motion that jolts the member from a seated to a standing position and does not facilitate a safe return to a seated position.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Electric/powered seat lift/chair lift mechanisms (E0170, E0627, E0635, E0636)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Electric lift chairs or powered seat lift mechanisms are considered convenience items. Therefore, payment is not allowed, due to contract exclusion.</strong>  &lt;br&gt;<strong>Note:</strong> Coverage is limited to the mechanical (non-electric) seat-lift mechanism alone, even if it is incorporated into a chair. A chair is considered furniture.  &lt;br&gt;Furniture does not meet the definition of Durable Medical Equipment (DME). DME is defined as mechanical equipment that can stand repeated use and is used in connection with the direct treatment of an illness or injury.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Equipment | Coverage Guidelines
---|---
Standing Devices (E0637, E0638, E0641, E0642) | Mechanical, non-powered, standing devices may be considered medically necessary durable medical equipment (DME) when ALL of the following criteria are met:
- The patient is unable to ambulate or stand independently because of a neuromuscular condition but has sufficient residual strength in the lower extremities (e.g., hips and legs) to allow for use of the device 
AND 
- A standing position cannot be successfully achieved even with the use of physical therapy or other assistive devices 
AND 
- The patient has completed appropriate standing device training and has demonstrated an ability to safely use the device 

Powered or electric/battery operated standing devices are considered convenience items. Therefore, payment is not allowed due to contract exclusion.

Note: See Related Information section for definition of home and vehicle modifications.

Coding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HCPCS</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E0171</td>
<td>Commode chair with integrated seat lift mechanism, nonelectric, any type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E0621</td>
<td>Sling or seat, patient lift, canvas or nylon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E0625</td>
<td>Patient lift, bathroom or toilet, not otherwise classified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E0629</td>
<td>Separate seat lift mechanism for use with patient owned furniture – nonelectric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E0630</td>
<td>Patient lift; hydraulic or mechanical, includes any seat, sling, strap(s), or pad(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E0637</td>
<td>Combination sit and stand system, any size including pediatric, with seat lift feature, with or without wheels</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**HCPCS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E0638</td>
<td>Standing frame system, one position (e.g., upright, supine or prone stander), any size including pediatric, with or without wheels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E0639</td>
<td>Patient lift, moveable from room to room with disassembly and reassembly, includes all components/accessories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E0641</td>
<td>Standing frame system, multi-position (e.g., three-way stander,), any size including pediatric, with or without wheels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E0642</td>
<td>Standing frame system, mobile (dynamic stander), any size including pediatric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E0985</td>
<td>Wheelchair accessory, seat lift mechanism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E1035</td>
<td>Multi-positional patient transfer system, with integrated seat, operated by care giver, patient weight capacity up to and including 300 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E1036</td>
<td>Multi-positional patient transfer system, extra-wide, with integrated seat, operated by caregiver, patient weight capacity greater than 300 lbs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The following codes are non-covered and are not eligible for reimbursement.**

**HCPCS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E0170</td>
<td>Commode chair with integrated seat lift mechanism, electric, any type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E0627</td>
<td>Seat lift mechanism, electric, any type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E0635</td>
<td>Patient lift, electric, with seat or sling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E0636</td>
<td>Multipositional patient support system, with integrated lift, patient accessible controls</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** CPT codes, descriptions and materials are copyrighted by the American Medical Association (AMA). HCPCS codes, descriptions and materials are copyrighted by Centers for Medicare Services (CMS).

### Related Information

### Definition of Terms

**Ceiling Lifts (E0640):** Ceiling lifts are typically attached to tracks installed directly into the ceiling in the home allowing easier patient transfer. Most of these devices are motorized though some are manually operated. The tracks can be located in more than one room of the home, allowing some portability. Manufacturers propose that positioning is easier with ceiling lifts than with floor-mounted lifts, and, if motorized, the ceiling lifts can be used independently by the patient. Fixed motorized lifts, however, are considered a home modification and a convenience item. (Not covered by contract).
**Miscellaneous Lifts:** Stairway chair lifts and stair gliders are devices attached to a track on a stairway to transfer from one level of the home to another on a chair or lift seat. They can be used on straight, curved or spiral stairs to aid in mobility throughout the home.

Other commonly used lift devices, including, but not limited to, van lifts (used to lift wheelchairs in and out of vans), wheelchair lifts (used to provide access to stairways or automobiles) and platform lifts facilitate transportation within the home or in and out of the home and are not primarily medical in nature.

**Patient Lifts (E0630, E0639):** Patient lifts are those devices either mechanical or electric that assist a caregiver in transferring a patient safely back and forth from a bed to a chair in cases where the patient is immobilized and would otherwise be confined to bed. (e.g., Hoyer lift with a sling and/or seat that is placed under the patient that supports them in the lifting device).

**Patient Lifts Toilet/tub (E0170, E0171, E0625):** A patient lift for a toilet/tub, is a single-purpose assistive device for transferring patients from the toilet/tub to another seat (e.g., wheelchair). It is generally used for patients who are unable to ambulate. Bathroom lifts used for transferring a patient onto a toilet or into a tub/shower are considered self-help and convenience items. (Not covered by most contracts).

**Residential/Home Modifications:** Stair lifts, stairway elevators, platform lifts, ceiling lifts and other structural changes or additions are considered home modifications and are not covered.

**Seat Lift Mechanisms (E0627, E0628, E0629):** Seat lift mechanisms are those devices either mechanical or electric, controlled by the individual that operate smoothly and successfully assist the individual in standing up and sitting down without other assistance. Some seat lift devices are separate mechanisms that are placed under a chair, some are placed on the seat of the chair and some are incorporated (built-in) to furniture such as a chair/recliner.

**Standing Devices (E0637, E0638, E0641, E0642):** Standing devices are also known as standing frames, standers, and others. This standing technology provides alternative positioning to sitting in a wheelchair by supporting the person in a standing position. A seat lift mechanism or sling is placed under the patient to gently raise the person from a sitting position to a standing position. Upright standers are used primarily in the vertical position by individuals who have fair to good trunk and head control. Studies have proposed that standing devices improve bone mineral density, bowel and bladder functioning, incidence of contractures and improve skin integrity. These devices are not used for individuals who have complete paralysis of the lower extremities because lower body range of motion is not improved or maintained with the use of a standing device.
**Vehicle Ramp/Lift and Vehicle Modifications:** Van lifts (used to lift a wheelchair/scooter or person into a truck or van); vehicle ramps and other vehicle modifications or additions are excluded from coverage because they do not meet the definition of Medical Equipment. These devices facilitate transportation and do not primarily serve a medical purpose and are not covered.

**Benefit Application**

Please refer to the definition of durable medical equipment, medical equipment and supplies in the member benefit booklet for questions about medical equipment. Some health benefit contracts may have coverage/benefit limitations and exclusions.

**Overview**

Many medical conditions can lead to limited mobility as a result of pain, joint stiffness or muscle weakness. Common manual/hydraulic patient lift devices are made by Hoyer and Invacare.

- Patient lifts and standing device/mechanisms eligible for coverage are moveable and are not permanently attached to the floor and/or ceiling.
- Patient lifts are used in a room other than the bathroom.
- Residential/home and vehicle modifications that are not durable medical equipment (DME) and that are a contractual exclusion include, but are not limited to the following:
  - Ceiling lifts
  - Elevators
  - Platform lifts
  - Ramps
  - Stair lifts
  - Vehicle lifts
  - Wall mounted lifts
  - Wheelchair lifts for vehicles
Note: A wheelchair seat lift mechanism (E0985) is addressed in another policy. (See Related Policies / Guidelines)

Evidence Review

This guideline was originally created in 2006 and updated regularly as required based on searches of the MEDLINE and DMERC databases. The most recent search was performed through November 2016.

Medicare National Coverage

Medicare covers patient lifts and seat life mechanisms as reasonable and necessary durable medical equipment (DME) when criteria are met.\(^2,^3\)

References


History
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>07/11/06</td>
<td>Add to Durable Medical Equipment - New Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/14/07</td>
<td>Replace policy. Policy title amended to add “Standing Devices”. Policy statement amended to include standing devices as medically necessary. Rationale and References updated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/12/08</td>
<td>Replace Policy - Policy updated with literature search; no change to the policy statement. Code E1035 added.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/14/09</td>
<td>Replace Policy - Policy updated with literature search, no change to the policy statement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/09/10</td>
<td>Code Update - New 2010 code added.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/08/10</td>
<td>Replace Policy - Policy updated with literature search, no change to the policy statement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/12/11</td>
<td>Replace Policy - Policy reviewed with literature search. Policy statement added to patient lift section indicating multi-positional patient support/transfer system (E0636, E1035, E1036) as medically necessary when criteria met; criteria for medically necessary indication of seat lifts updated to list those with severe arthritis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/17/12</td>
<td>Codes E0985 and E0625 added.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/14/12</td>
<td>Replace Policy – Policy updated with deletion of policy statement regarding wheelchair seat lift mechanisms (E0985). Wheelchair seat lift mechanisms are now addressed in policy 1.01.501 – Wheelchairs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/24/12</td>
<td>Update Coding Section – ICD-10 codes are now effective on 10/01/2014.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/13/13</td>
<td>Replace policy. Policy reviewed. A literature review through January 2013 did not prompt any changes to the rationale section. No new references added. Policy statement unchanged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/10/15</td>
<td>Annual Review. Moved from Medical Policy to Utilization Management Guideline category. Guideline statements edited for clarification only. Added 10.01.517 Non-covered Services and Procedures to Related Guidelines and Policies section. List of non-covered items that are contract exclusions added to Additional Information section. Guideline review through January, 2015 did not prompt the addition of new references. Code E0640 is removed from the UM guideline because it is a contract exclusion. No change to intent of the guideline statements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/29/15</td>
<td>Coding update. ICD-10-CM codes M15.0 and M19.91-93 added.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/12/16</td>
<td>Annual Review. Policy reviewed. Literature search; no changes to the policy statement. References updated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/01/17</td>
<td>Annual Review, approved January 10, 2017. Policy reviewed; no change to the policy statement. References updated. Policy moved to new format.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/09/17</td>
<td>Coding update; removed HCPCS code E0628 as it terminated on 1/1/17 and replaced by E0627. Updated description for HCPCS code E0627 as this is now an electric mechanism.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Disclaimer:** This medical policy is a guide in evaluating the medical necessity of a particular service or treatment. The Company adopts policies after careful review of published peer-reviewed scientific literature, national guidelines and local standards of practice. Since medical technology is constantly changing, the Company reserves the right to review and update policies as appropriate. Member contracts differ in their benefits. Always consult the member benefit booklet or contact a member service representative to determine coverage for a specific medical service or supply. CPT codes, descriptions and materials are copyrighted by the American Medical Association (AMA). ©2017 Premera All Rights Reserved.

**Scope:** Medical policies are systematically developed guidelines that serve as a resource for Company staff when determining coverage for specific medical procedures, drugs or devices. Coverage for medical services is subject to the limits and conditions of the member benefit plan. Members and their providers should consult the member benefit booklet or contact a customer service representative to determine whether there are any benefit limitations applicable to this service or supply. This medical policy does not apply to Medicare Advantage.
Discrimination Is Against the Law

Premera Blue Cross complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. Premera does not exclude people or treat them differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex.

Premera:
- Provides free aids and services to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us, such as:
  - Qualified sign language interpreters
  - Written information in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, other formats)
- Provides free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as:
  - Qualified interpreters
  - Information written in other languages

If you need these services, contact the Civil Rights Coordinator.

If you believe that Premera has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex, you can file a grievance with:
Civil Rights Coordinator - Complaints and Appeals
PO Box 91102, Seattle, WA 98111
Toll free 855-332-4535, Fax 425-918-5592. TTY 800-842-5357
Email AppealsDepartmentInquiries@Premera.com

You can file a grievance in person or by mail, fax, or email. If you need help filing a grievance, the Civil Rights Coordinator is available to help you.

You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf, or by mail or phone at:
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW, Room S09F, HHH Building
Washington, D.C. 20201, 1-800-368-1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD) Complaint forms are available at:

Getting Help in Other Languages

This Notice has Important Information. This notice may have important information about your application or coverage through Premera Blue Cross. There may be key dates in this notice. You may need to take action by certain deadlines to keep your health coverage or help with costs. You have the right to get this information and help in your language at no cost.

Call 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357).

Arabic (Arabic):
ويحوي هذا الإشعار معلومات هامة. قد يحتوي هذا الإشعار معلومات متعلقة بما يتعين إبلاغه أو تقديمه. إذا كنت تعتقد أن هناك مشاكل أو مشاكل متعلقة بالموضوعات المذكورة في هذا الإشعار، فيجب أن تكون إبلاغك على متماسك وتنهي عندما تكون مخلصًا. في حال طلبك أو طلبك، يجب أن تكون إبلاغك على هذا الإشعار المتعلق بالمشكلة أو المشكلة المذكورة في هذا الإشعار. تصل 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357).

Chinese (Chinese):
本通知有重要的信息。本通知可能有关于您透过 Premera Blue Cross 提交的申请或保险之重要讯息。本通知内可能有重要日期。您可能需要在截止日期之前采取行动，以保留您的健康保险或费用补贴。您有权利免费以您的母语得到本讯息和帮助。请拨电话 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357).

French (French):

Italiano (Italian):
Premera Blue Cross

Health Insurance Information

The following information may be important:

- Please review this notice and take any necessary action before the indicated date.
- Premera Blue Cross may continue to offer you coverage or assistance depending on the information contained in this notice.
- The information may not cover all of your benefits and costs.
- This notice may contain confidential information.

Please review the notice and take necessary action before the indicated date. For more information, please contact Premera Blue Cross at 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357).

Japanese (Japanese):

この通知には重要な情報が含まれています。この通知に、Premera Blue Crossの申請または補償範囲に関する重要な情報が含まれている場合があります。これに従って記録されている情報は重要な日を含む場合があります。健康保険やサポートを維持するには、特定の期日までに行動を取らなければならない場合があります。この言語による情報とサポートが無料で提供されます。800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357)までお電話ください。

Korean (Korean):

본 통지서에는 중요한 정보가 들어 있습니다. 즉 이 통지서는 귀하의 신청에 관하여 그리고 Premera Blue Cross를 통한 커버리지에 관한 정보를 포함하고 있을 수 있습니다. 귀하는 귀하의 건강 커버리지를 계속 유지하거나 이용할 수 있기 위해서 일정한 마감일까지 조치를 취해야 할 필요가 있을 수 있습니다. 귀하의 이러한 정보들도 귀하의 이용과 비용 부담없이 얻을 수 있는 권리가 있습니다. 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357)로 전화하십시오.

Lao (Lao):

储存的文件和资料信息。文件和数据信息可能包含在Premera Blue Cross。如果该文件和数据信息包含紧急情况，则可能会有补充信息的申请。如果有关于时间的紧急情况，请尽快联系Premera Blue Cross。

Punjabi (Punjabi):

ਹੋਣ ਵਾਲੀ ਅਤੇ ਪ੍ਰੈਮਰਾ ਬਲ੍ਸ ਕ੍ਰੋਸ ਨੇ ਇਹ ਘਟਨਾ ਨੁਹਾਹਰਾ ਤੋਂ ਪੁਰਾਣ ਹੋਣ ਦੀ ਤਸਵੀਰ ਦਿੱਤੀ।

Romanian (Romanian):


Russian (Russian):

Настоящее уведомление содержит важную информацию. Это уведомление может содержать важную информацию о вашем заявлении или страховом покрытии через Premera Blue Cross. В таком уведомлении могут быть ключевые даты. Вам, возможно, потребуется принять меры к определенным предельным срокам для сохранения страхового покрытия или помощи с расходами. Вы имеете право на бесплатное получение этой информации и помощь на вашем языке. Звоните по телефону 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357).

Spanish (Spanish):

Este Aviso contiene información importante. Es posible que este aviso contenga información importante acerca de su solicitud de cobertura a través de Premera Blue Cross. Es posible que haya fechas clave en este aviso. Es posible que deba tomar alguna medida antes de determinadas fechas para mantener su cobertura médica o ayuda con los costos. Usted tiene derecho a recibir esta información y ayuda en su idioma sin costo alguno. Llame al 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357).

Tagalog (Tagalog):

Ang Paunawa na ito ay naglalaman ng mahalagang impormasyon. Ang paunawa na ito ay naglalaman ng mahalagang impormasyon tungkol sa iyong aksyon o pagkapagplano sa Premera Blue Cross. Maaaring magaaliwangan ka na nagasagawa ng habang sa ilang mga itinakdang dates. Kailangan ka na magkaroon ng kung dapat gawin kahit sa ilang mahalagang impormasyon.

Thai (Thai):

ประกาศนี้มีข้อมูลสําคัญ


Ukrainian (Ukrainian):

Це повідомлення містить важливу інформацію. Це повідомлення може містити важливу інформацію про Ваше звернення щодо страхувального покриття через Premera Blue Cross. Зверніть увагу на ключові дати, які можуть бути вказані у цьому повідомленні. Існує можливість того, що Вам треба буде здійснити певні кроки у конкретні кінцеві строки для того, щоб зберегти Ваше медичне страхування або отримати фінансову допомогу. У Вас є право на отримання цієї інформації та допомоги безкоштовно на Вашій рідній мові. Дозвоніться за номером телефону 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357).

Vietnamese (Vietnamese):

Thông báo này cung cấp thông tin quan trọng. Thông báo này có thông tin quan trọng về đơn xin tham gia hoặc hợp đồng bảo hiểm của quý vị qua chương trình Premera Blue Cross. Xin xem ngay quan trọng thông báo này. Quý vị có thể phải thực hiện một số bước để đảm bảo rằng quý vị đã có quyền được biết thông tin này và được trợ giúp bằng ngôn ngữ của mình miễn phí. Xin gọi số 800-722-1471 (TTY: 800-842-5357).