

Beaufort Medical Equipment

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Wheelchair Documentation Requirements for Medicare

1) RX – Wheelchair (standard or lightweight)

Must include: wheelchair or light wt w/c, diagnosis, length of need, hgt and weight and signed /dated by doctor (no stamps allowed)

2) Documented in doctor progress notes(can NOT be in letter format): **MUST ADDRESS A thru D**

A) What is the patient's mobility limitation (Prevents the patient from accomplishing an MRADL entirely, or prevents the patient from completing an MRADL within a reasonable time frame) that impairs his/her ability to participate in one or more mobility-related activities of daily living (MRADLs) such as toileting, feeding, dressing, grooming, and bathing in customary locations in the home?

B) Can the patient's mobility limitation be sufficiently resolved by the use of an appropriately fitted cane or walker? If yes, not eligible for a wheelchair.

C) Will the use of a manual wheelchair significantly improve the patient's ability to participate in MRADLs and will the patient use it on a regular basis in the home?

D) Does the patient have sufficient upper extremity function and other physical and mental capabilities needed to safely self-propel the manual wheelchair that is provided in the home during a typical day.

- Limitations of strength, endurance, range of motion, or coordination, presence of pain, or deformity or absence of one or both upper extremities are relevant to the assessment of upper extremity function

Note: LIGHTWEIGHT W/C is covered when a patient: (something like this must be stated in the progress notes)

- a. Cannot self-propel in a standard wheelchair in the home; AND**
- b. The patient can and does self-propel in a lightweight wheelchair**

***Patient is eligible for a wheelchair cushion as well but you must include "w/c cushion" or "w/c seat and back cushion" verbiage on the RX**

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Manual Fully Reclining Back

Coverage Criteria:

Patient spends at least 2 hours per day in the wheelchair and has 1 or more of the following condition/needs.

- Quadriplegia
- Fixed hip angle
- Trunk or LE cast/braces require recline for positioning needs
- Excess extensor tone of the trunk muscles
- Rest in recumbent position 2+ times/day and transfers are difficult

Justifications

- Patient needs to weight shift due to skin breakdown
- Patient needs to lie flat to empty their bladder
- Patient breathes better in recline position
- Patient needs to control severe lower extremity edema
- Patient needs to lie flat for transfers

* RX needed with applicable diagnosis... must be documented in Progress note