

LIFT CHAIR

INDICATIONS & QUALIFICATIONS

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

The patient must have severe arthritis of the hip or knee or have a severe neuromuscular disease, and

The seat-lift mechanism must be part of the physician's course of treatment and be prescribed to effect improvement, or arrest or retard deterioration in the patient's condition, and

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), and

Once standing, the patient *must* have the ability to ambulate

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 assistance. Coverage is limited to the seat-lift mechanism, even if incorporated into a chair.

Excluded from coverage is the type of lift that operates by a spring release mechanism with a sudden, catapult-like motion and jolts the patient from a seated to a standing position.

A seat lift mechanism placed over or on top of a toilet is not covered.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

A "Standard" written order must be received by First Choice Medical *prior* to delivery. Certificate of Medical Necessity (CMN) CMS form 849 (DME form 07.03A) must also accompany the claim and be kept on file by First Choice Medical. The physician ordering the seat lift mechanism must be the treating 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.

The CMN questions are important in determining coverage; if the questions are answered incorrectly, the seat lift mechanism will be denied as not covered. Questions 1 or 2 must be answered yes. The remaining questions, 3 thru 5 must also be answered yes.