



MEDICARE COVERAGE GUIDELINES

MEDICAL BEDS

Medicare requires a face-to-face exam with the ordering physician.

- The purpose for the face-to-face visit must be the **CONDITION** for which the medical bed is being ordered.
- The patient's progress notes must include a detailed narrative describing the patient's condition and justifying the need for a medical bed.

Medicare will cover a medical bed for patients requiring:

- Frequent and/or immediate changes in body positioning
AND
- One or more of the following:
 - Positioning body not feasible with regular bed, and needs elevation of head/upper body >30°
 - Positioning to alleviate pain
 - Head of bed elevation >30° due to:
 - CHF
 - COPD
 - PROBLEMS with Aspiration (not RISK of Aspiration)
 - Traction equipment which can only attach to a medical bed

The following questions must be addressed in the progress notes:

- What is the patient's weight?
- What is the patient's diagnosis and condition that requires the use of the medical bed?
- What are the symptoms experienced by the patient that require the need for the medical bed?
- What is the severity/frequency of their condition/symptoms?
- What interventions have been tried (ie. bed wedges, pillows) and why did they not work?
- How will the medical bed improve their condition/symptoms?
 - If the diagnosis is pain, how will the positioning of a medical bed help alleviate the pain?
 - If elevation of 30 degrees is required, how will the elevation help improve the symptoms?
- Why does the patient require frequent and/or immediate changes in body positioning?



Phone: 509-654-9899 | Fax: 509-494-8888

Ellensburg

709 S. Main Street

Moses Lake

1308 S Pioneer Way

Yakima

1101 N 16th Ave

Sunnyside

2580 Yakima Valley Hwy.

Richland

846 Stevens Drive

Version 1.3