

Policy References: [Local Coverage Determination Hospital Beds and Accessories \(L33820\) and Policy Article \(A52508\)](#)

Documentation References: [Standard Documentation Requirements Policy Article \(PA\) A55426](#)

Hospital Beds

The treating clinician must complete the following items:

- [Standard Written Order \(SWO\)](#)
- Medical record documentation requirements (see below)

Fixed Height Hospital Beds (one or more of the following criteria are met)

- Beneficiary has a medical condition which requires positioning of the body in ways not feasible with an ordinary bed. Elevation of the head/upper body less than 30 degrees does not usually require the use of hospital bed; or
- Beneficiary requires positioning of the body in ways not feasible with an ordinary bed in order to alleviate pain; or
- Beneficiary requires the head of the bed to be elevated more than 30 degrees most of the time due to congestive heart failure, chronic pulmonary disease, or problems with aspiration; or
- Beneficiary requires traction equipment, which can only be attached to a hospital bed.

Variable Height Hospital Beds

- Beneficiary meets criteria for a fixed height hospital bed above; and
- Beneficiary requires a bed height different than a fixed height hospital bed to permit transfers to chair, wheelchair or standing position

Semi-electric Hospital Beds

- Beneficiary meets criteria for a fixed height hospital bed above; and
- Beneficiary requires frequent changes in body position and/or has an immediate need for a change in position

Heavy-Duty Extra Wide Hospital Beds

- Beneficiary meets criteria for a fixed height hospital bed above; and
- Beneficiary's weight is more than 350 pounds, but doesn't exceed 600 pounds

Extra Heavy-Duty Hospital Beds

- Beneficiary meets criteria for a fixed height hospital bed above; and
- Beneficiary's weight exceeds 600 pounds

Total Electric Hospital Beds

- Total electric beds are not covered since the height adjustment feature is a convenience feature.

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