

Bathroom Equipment and Supplies

DME.SU.104.A

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Introduction

Bathroom equipment and supplies are addressed by this guideline.

Criteria

Commode Chair (HCPCS E0163, E0165, E0168, E0170, E0171)

A commode chair is considered medically necessary when an individual is physically unable to utilize regular toilet facilities, as defined by **any** of the following situations:

- the individual is confined to a single room
- the individual is confined to one level of the home environment and there is no toilet on that level
- the individual is confined to the home and there are no toilet facilities in the home

An extra wide/heavy duty commode chair (HCPCS E0168) is considered medically necessary for an individual who weighs 300 pounds or more.

A commode chair with detachable arms (HCPCS E0165) is considered medically necessary when the detachable arms are required to assist with transfers or when the individual's body size or shape necessitates additional width.

A commode chair with a seat lift mechanism (HCPCS E0170, E0171) is considered medically necessary when the coverage criteria for a commode chair are met and an individual meets **all** of the following criteria:

- The individual has a condition that affects their strength or mobility (e.g., severe arthritis of the hip or knee, neuromuscular disease).
- The individual is unable to stand up from a non-assist chair in the home.
- The individual is able to ambulate or transfer independently once standing.
- The individual has tried and failed other standard treatments to improve standing from a chair (e.g., medications, physical therapy).
- The individual is able to safely use the device.

Sitz Baths (HCPCS E0160, E0161, E0162)

A sitz bath is considered medically necessary if a treating practitioner determines that an individual has an injury or infection of the perineal area and that the bath should be a part of the treatment plan in the individual's home.

Replacement or Repairs

Replacement of medically necessary bathroom equipment and/or supplies is considered medically necessary when there is anatomical change to an individual or when reasonable wear and tear renders the item non-functioning and irreparable.

Not Medically Necessary

Home modification for the use of bathroom equipment or supplies does not meet the definition of durable medical equipment (DME) and is considered not medically necessary. Any duplicate equipment is considered a convenience item and is considered not medically necessary.

Evidence Discussion

Perineal infections are a frequent and serious complication in individuals with hematological malignancies undergoing chemotherapy, with incidence rate reported as high as 40% and mortality ranging from 11% to 57%. These infections prolong hospitalization and lead to sepsis. There are studies that suggest that povidone-iodine sitz baths may reduce infection risk, but evidence on optimal concentration and safety is limited.¹

Warm sitz baths are an effective adjunct for managing postoperative complications following hemorrhoidectomy. Immersion in warm water helps alleviate anal discomfort by reducing internal sphincter spasm, enhancing perfusion and supporting tissue repair. In previous studies, it has also been suggested that warm water can relax the anal sphincter and decrease the anal resting pressure.²

Commode chairs are beneficial in improving mobility and decreasing the number of transfers required during toileting, showering, and activities of daily living (ADLs). Evidence indicates that shower commode chairs provide a multi-functional solution that enhances independence, reduces fall risk, and minimizes caregiver strain by allowing

¹ Luo Y, Wang Y, Yang M, et al. Comparison of different concentrations of a povidone iodine-diluted sitz bath in the prevention of perianal infection in patients undergoing chemotherapy for hematological malignancy: study protocol for a randomized controlled trial. *Trials*. 2022;23(1):895. Published 2022 Oct 22. doi:10.1186/s13063-022-06721-y

² Kwon YH, Ryoo SB, Oh HK, et al. Comparison of warm sitz bath and electronic bidet with a lower-force water flow for postoperative management after hemorrhoidectomy (BIDLOW). *BMC Surg*. 2025;25(1):5. Published 2025 Jan 6. doi:10.1186/s12893-024-02737-0

safe positioning for hygiene and bowel management.³ Additionally, studies show that assistive products, including commode chairs, significantly promote independence in bathroom transfers and reduce reliance on caregivers, supporting aging-in-place and improving quality of life.⁴ Recent innovations, such as mobile multi-functional commode chairs for spinal cord injury patients, further address biomechanical challenges and caregiver burden by integrating transfer and toileting functions into a single device.⁵

Codes

HCPCS code descriptions

HCPCS Code	Description
E0150	Combination wheeled walker with seat and transport chair, folding, adjustable or fixed height
E0170	Commode chair with integrated seat lift mechanism, electric, any type
E0175	Foot rest, for use with commode chair, each
E0240	Bath/shower chair, with or without wheels, any size
E0241	Bath tub wall rail, each
E0242	Bath tub rail, floor base
E0243	Toilet rail, each
E0244	Raised toilet seat
E0245	Tub stool or bench
E0246	Transfer tub rail attachment
E0249	Pad for water circulating heat unit, for replacement only
E0160	Sitz type bath or equipment, portable, used with or without commode

³ Friesen EL, Theodoros D, Russell TG. Use, performance and features of mobile shower commodes: perspectives of adults with spinal cord injury and expert clinicians. *Disabil Rehabil Assist Technol*. 2015;10(1):38-45. doi:10.3109/17483107.2013.832413

⁴ De-Rosende-Celeiro I, Torres G, Seoane-Bouzas M, Ávila A. Exploring the use of assistive products to promote functional independence in self-care activities in the bathroom. *PLoS ONE*. 2019;14(4):e0215002. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0215002

⁵ Samal S, Mantry M, Dash P, Pattanaik R. The Mobile Multifunctional Commode Chair: A Unique Transferring Device for Wheelchair Users. *Int J Health Sci Res*. 2025;15(3). doi:10.52403/ijhsr.20250316

HCPSC Code	Description
E0161	Sitz type bath or equipment, portable, used with or without commode, with faucet attachment/s
E0162	Sitz bath chair
E0163	Commode chair, mobile or stationary, with fixed arms
E0165	Commode chair, mobile or stationary, with detachable arms
E0167	Pail or pan for use with commode chair, replacement only
E0168	Commode chair, extra wide and/or heavy duty, stationary or mobile, with or without arms, any type, each
E0171	Commode chair with integrated seat lift mechanism, non-electric, any type
E0247	Transfer bench for tub or toilet with or without commode opening
E0248	Transfer bench, heavy duty, for tub or toilet with or without commode opening

References

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3. NCD - Durable Medical Equipment Reference List (280.1). Cms.gov. Published 2025. Accessed November 25, 2025. <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/ncd.aspx?ncdid=190&ncdver=4&bc=0>
4. Naylor JR, Mulley GP. Commodes: inconvenient conveniences. BMJ. 1993;307(6914):1258-1260. doi:10.1136/bmj.307.6914.1258