



2009

HOSPITAL BED CRITERIA (MEDICARE)

A **fixed height hospital bed** is medically appropriate in the home when **ANY** of the following is met:

- The patient has a medical condition which requires positioning of the body in ways not feasible with an ordinary bed (such as the head or foot of bed elevated to alleviate pain, promote good body alignment, prevent contractures, avoid respiratory infections in patients with cardiac disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, quadriplegia or paraplegia); **OR**
- The patient requires the head of the bed to be elevated more than 30 degrees* most of the time due to left-sided congestive heart failure with orthopnea, or problems with aspiration. Pillows or wedges must have been tried and ruled out as sufficient; **OR**
- Special attachments that cannot be fixed and used on an ordinary bed (e.g., traction equipment).

Variable Height Hospital Bed

- A manual or electric variable height hospital bed is medically appropriate if the patient meets **one of the criteria for a fixed height hospital bed**; **AND**
- Requires a bed height different than a fixed height hospital bed to permit transfers to chair, wheelchair or standing position (e.g., in patients with fractured hip, severe arthritis, injuries to lower extremities, severe cardiac conditions, quadriplegic or paraplegic spinal cord injuries, multiple limb amputee, stroke and other severely debilitating diseases and conditions).

Semi-Electric Hospital Bed

- A semi-electric hospital bed is medically appropriate if the patient meets **one of the criteria for a fixed height bed**; **AND**
- The patient is able to operate the controls and cause the adjustments; **AND**
- Has a condition that requires frequent changes in body position and where there may be an immediate need for a change in body position (i.e., no delay can be tolerated), e.g., the Deluxe Franklin Bed.