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Pediatric Gait Trainers and Standing Systems (for Louisiana Only)

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[➔ Instructions for Use](#)

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Application

This Medical Policy only applies to the state of Louisiana.

Coverage Rationale

Standing Frames

State Specific Criteria

The criteria to be considered for a standing frame include, but are not limited to, the following:

- There is a goal of prevention of one or more of the following medical complications:
 - Decubitus ulcer: Where there is a need for off-loading of a decubitus ulcer which cannot be accomplished by other means;
 - Osteoporosis: Where improvement or stabilization of bone density cannot be achieved with other treatment or activities;
 - Contracture development: High potential for progressive contracture formation including but not limited to post-operative release of contractures;
 - Compromised bowel/bladder function: Where there has been demonstration of incomplete emptying of bladder or constipation refractory to other medical treatment;
 - Pulmonary complications: Where there has been demonstration of recurrent infections and poor clearance of pulmonary secretions despite the use of other medical treatment;
 - Hip dislocation: Where hip subluxation/dislocation is worsening, and alternate treatments have not been successful;

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and

- The individual is unable to accomplish the above goals with his/her current medical device/equipment or alternate medical treatment; and
- The individual has been evaluated in physical therapy with a trial using the standing device and has shown compliance, tolerance and demonstrated potential for clinical benefit, as determined by the evaluator; and
- There is a written plan of care

Non-coverage of the standing frame includes, but is not limited to the following:

- The beneficiary has complete paralysis of the lower extremities;
- When there is no expected improvement in mobility or maintenance of function;
- The anticipated functional benefits of standing can be achieved through less-costly alternatives;
- Mobile (dynamic) stander - either self-propelled standers or standers with powered mobility;
- Active stander - allows movement of the arms and legs in a standing position;
- In beneficiaries with syncope, orthostatic hypotension, postural tachycardia syndrome, osteogenesis imperfecta, osteoporosis, and other brittle bone diseases, and hip subluxation;
- In beneficiary's that have hip and knee flexion contractures of more than 20 degrees; and
- A stander will not be purchased for a beneficiary who has a gait trainer or ambulatory device

Pediatric Gait Trainers

Non-State Specific Criteria

Gait Trainers for Functional Ambulation are proven and medically necessary when the following criteria are met:

- The individual is 18 years of age or younger; and
- The individual has the potential for Functional Ambulation; and
- The individual uses the gait trainer when documentation shows assistive devices have not been effective.

Gait Trainers for therapeutic ambulation are proven and medically necessary for treating non-ambulatory individuals when the following criteria are met:

- The individual is 18 years of age or younger; and
- The individual is capable of utilizing and tolerating the equipment safely; and
- The individual requires moderate to maximum support for ambulation (i.e., handheld ambulation assist devices are not feasible); and
- The individual has an acquired injury (e.g., spinal cord or traumatic brain injury) or a chronic physical limitation that affects the ability to ambulate (e.g., cerebral palsy, neuromuscular disease, or spina bifida); and
- The individual has a physician directed written treatment plan (including frequency and duration).

Definitions

Functional Ambulation: The ability to walk, with or without the aid of appropriate assistive devices (such as prostheses, orthoses, canes or walkers), safely and

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sufficiently to carry out mobility-related activities of daily living. (Lam et al., 2008).

Gait Trainer: A gait trainer (sometimes referred to as a rollator) is a term used to describe certain devices that are used to support a member during ambulation.

Standing Frame: A standing frame (also known as a stander, standing aid, standing device) is an assistive technology that can be used by a person who relies on a wheelchair for mobility. A standing frame provides alternative positioning to sitting in a wheelchair by supporting the person in the standing position

Applicable Codes

The following list(s) of procedure and/or diagnosis codes is provided for reference purposes only and may not be all inclusive. Listing of a code in this policy does not imply that the service described by the code is a covered or non-covered health service. Benefit coverage for health services is determined by federal, state, or contractual requirements and applicable laws that may require coverage for a specific service. The inclusion of a code does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee claim payment. Other Policies and Guidelines may apply.

<u>HCPSC Code</u>	<u>Description</u>
<u>*E0637</u>	<u>Combination sit-to-stand frame/table system, any size including pediatric, with seat lift feature, with or without wheels</u>
<u>E0638</u>	<u>Standing frame/table system, one position (e.g., upright, supine or prone stander), any size including pediatric, with or without wheels</u>
<u>*E0641</u>	<u>Standing frame/table system, multi-position (e.g., 3-way stander), any size including pediatric, with or without wheels</u>
<u>E0642</u>	<u>Standing frame/table system, mobile (dynamic stander), any size including pediatric</u>
<u>E8000</u>	<u>Gait trainer, pediatric size, posterior support, includes all accessories and components</u>
<u>*E8001</u>	<u>Gait trainer, pediatric size, upright support, includes all accessories and components</u>
<u>*E8002</u>	<u>Gait trainer, pediatric size, anterior support, includes all accessories and components</u>

Codes labeled with an asterisk(*) are not on the state of Louisiana Fee Schedule and therefore may not be covered by the State of Louisiana Medicaid Program.

Description of Services

Gait trainers are supportive walking devices that take the weight of the body through a solid or fabric 'seat', stabilize the trunk, and support the pelvis (Paleg and Livingstone, 2016).

Supported standing devices such as standers or tilt-tables allow the user to attain and maintain a standing or partial-standing position and commonly stabilize hips, knees and ankles through posterior heel, anterior knee and posterior hip supports and/or straps (Paleg and Livingstone, 2015).

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Clinical Evidence

Pediatric Gait Trainers

Paleg and Livingstone (2015a) conducted a systematic review regarding use of gait trainers at home or school with children who are unable to walk independently or with hand-held walkers. Included studies involved at least one child with a mobility limitation and measured an outcome related to gait trainer use. Seventeen studies involving 182 children were included. Evidence from one small randomized controlled trial suggested a non-significant trend toward increased walking distance while another evidence level II study (concurrent multiple baseline design) reported increased number of steps. Two level III studies (non-randomized) reported statistically significant impact on mobility level with one finding significant impact on bowel function and an association between increased intervention time and bone mineral density. Remaining descriptive level evidence provided support for positive impact on a range of activity outcomes, with some studies reporting impact on affect, motivation and participation with others. The authors concluded that evidence supporting outcomes for children using gait trainers is primarily descriptive and, while mainly positive, is insufficient to draw firm conclusions.

Gharib et al. (2011) conducted a randomized controlled trial to assess the effects of additional gait trainer assisted walking exercises on walking performance in children with hemiparetic cerebral palsy. Thirty children with spastic hemiparetic cerebral palsy were included in the study. Children were randomly assigned into two equal groups; experimental and control. Participants in both groups received a traditional physical therapy exercise program. Those in the experimental group received additional gait trainer based walking exercises which aimed to improve walking performance. Treatment was provided three times per week for three successive months. Children received baseline and post-treatment assessments to evaluate gait parameters including average step length, walking speed, time on each foot and ambulation index. The ambulation index was 75.53 ± 7.36 (11.93 ± 2.89 change score) for the experimental group and 66.06 ± 5.48 (2.13 ± 4.43 change score) for the control group. Time of support for the affected side was 42.4 ± 3.37 (7 ± 2.20 change score) for the experimental group and 38.06 ± 4.63 (3.33 ± 6.25 change score) for the control group. Also, there was a significant improvement in step length and walking speed in both groups. The authors concluded that gait trainer walking exercises combined with traditional physical therapy increase the chance of improving gait performance in children with spastic hemiparetic cerebral palsy.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

This section is to be used for informational purposes only. FDA approval alone is not a basis for coverage.

Gait trainers are classified as Class I devices in product category INN and are exempt from 510(k) marketing requirements.

Standing systems may be classified in product categories ION (exerciser, non-measuring), INW (table, mechanical) and IPL (stand-up wheelchair). Devices in product categories ION and INW are Class I devices and are exempt from 510(k) marketing requirements. For additional information on product category IPL, see the following website: <https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfPMN/pmn.cfm>. Accessed February 9, 2022.

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Policy History/Revision Information

Date	Summary of Changes
TBD	• New Medical Policy

Instructions for Use

This Medical Policy provides assistance in interpreting UnitedHealthcare standard benefit plans. When deciding coverage, the federal, state or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage must be referenced as the terms of the federal, state or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage may differ from the standard benefit plan. In the event of a conflict, the federal, state or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage govern. Before using this policy, please check the federal, state or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage. UnitedHealthcare reserves the right to modify its

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Policies and Guidelines as necessary. This Medical Policy is provided for informational purposes. It does not constitute medical advice.

UnitedHealthcare may also use tools developed by third parties, such as the InterQual® criteria, to assist us in administering health benefits. The UnitedHealthcare Medical Policies are intended to be used in connection with the independent professional medical judgment of a qualified health care provider and do not constitute the practice of medicine or medical advice.

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