Objectives

- Qualifications of assistive devices
- Advantages / disadvantages of various assistive device
- Bathroom assistive devices
- Funding- Home use devices
What is an assistive device?

Assistive device (a.d.): Any device that is designed, made, or adapted to assist a person perform a particular task.
Funding: A.d. for safe mobility within the home to participate with activities of daily living

Images from Walmart.com

Canes

Qualifications:
- Mild balance deficits
- Pain

Advantages:
- Least restrictive
- Portable
- Affordable

Disadvantages
- Requires coordination
- Provides little support for balance

Images from Walmart.com
Hiking Poles

Qualifications:
- Mild balance deficits
- Promote upright posture
- Community Mobility

Advantages:
- Portable
- Promote more of an upright posture than a cane
- Affordable

Disadvantages
- Provides little support for balance
- Requires coordination

Walker

Qualifications:
- Moderate balance deficits

Advantages:
- Larger base of support to assist with balance
- Takes less coordination
- Covered by insurance

Disadvantages
- Larger turning radius than cane or hiking pole
- Efficiency of ambulation- especially carpeted area
Rollator
Qualifications
- Mild balance deficits
- Endurance deficits

Advantages:
- Large base of support to assist with balance
- Takes less coordination, efficiency
- Seat to rest or to transport objects
- Light weight (15 lb)

Disadvantages
- Larger turning radius than walker
- The 4 wheels can roll faster than a walker
- Cognitive task to lock brakes

U Step Walker
Qualifications
- Moderate to mild balance deficits- rollator not appropriate
- Freezing of gait
- Shuffling gait pattern

Advantages:
- Large base of support
- Heavier for more support
- Reverse brake for easy locking system
- Can control forward progression

Disadvantages
- Heavier for transport (25 lb) - Smaller wheels for unlevel
- Cost- coverage is not guaranteed
Wheelchair - Transport

Qualifications:
- Difficulty with community mobility
- Requires caregiver assistance

Advantages:
- Very light weight (19 lb)
- Easiest to transport

Disadvantages
- Can not propel with your arms
- Does not provide postural support
- Out of pocket expense ($120- $150)

Wheelchair - Standard Weight/ Lightweight

Qualifications:
- Short term wheelchair use for standard and light weight > 2 hours per day

Advantages:
- Provides more support than a transport wheelchair
- Cost – insurance coverage

Disadvantages
- Can propel with arms – inefficient propulsion
- Difficult to propel over carpet
- Heavy for transport (> 35 lbs)
Wheelchair- Ultralight weight (K5)

Qualifications:
- Unable to perform ADLs efficiently with a standard or lightweight manual wheelchair (full time user)

Advantages:
- Rear wheel can be adjustable for proper positioning, propulsion
- Can customize seat for postural support
- Lighter weight for transportation- (21 lb without wheels)

Disadvantages
- Cost. Medicare- covers 80%
- Long process for coverage

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Power Assist

Smart drive/ Twion Wheels
- Can be placed on manual wheelchair to improve efficiency of mobility
- Need to be able to follow multiple step commands with a quick reaction time
- Must have a properly fitted wheelchair for more than one year prior to Medicare considering authorization

Efix power wheelchair
- Joy stick added to a manual wheelchair
- Be able to follow multiple step commands and have a quick reaction time
- Not covered by Medicare

**Scooter**

Qualifications:
- Unable to participate with ADLs with use of walker, rollator, and manual wheelchair

Advantages:
- Cost
- Transportation easier than other power mobility

Disadvantages
- Large turning radius not usually appropriate for home
- Poor postural support
- Can not be adapted for future needs

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**Basic Power- Group I**

Qualifications:
- Unable to participate with ADLs with use of walker, rollator, manual wheelchair, and scooter within the home environment

Advantages:
- Provides more support than a scooter
- Cost – coverage occurs more often than Group II or III
- Better turning radius than a scooter

Disadvantages
- Transportability is more complicated than a scooter
- Minimal custom seating
- Need to be able to follow multiple step commands and have a quick reaction time
Custom Power Group II- III

Qualifications:
- Unable to participate with ADLs with use of walker, rollator, manual wheelchair, and scooter within the home environment
- Neurological condition

Advantages:
- Provides with the most amount of support
- Custom seating
- Power seat functions (Tilt, recline, elevating leg rests)
  Seat elevation- Most insurance companies do not cover

Disadvantages
- Transportability
- Cognition and reaction time required

Tilt In Space Wheelchair

Qualifications:
- Benefit from trunk support and tilt position to open thoracic posture and promote midline posture
- Unable to perform independent pressure reliefs and re-positioning
- Dependent with mobility

Advantages:
- Provide custom seating

Disadvantages
- Transportability
- Coverage (rental)- Recommend Therapy and ATP collaborate
- Difficult to propel
Cushions

Foam
- Provides comfort and support
- Incontinence covers are needed
- Does not provide the best pressure relieving effect

Gel
- Pressure relieving effect
- Gel distributes, need to redistribute

Air
- Best pressure relief
- Least amount of support
- Most maintenance

Bathroom Equipment

Bedside commode
- can be placed over the toilet
- can be used next to the bed
- covered by insurance
- padded v non padded

Tub Transfer bench
- improve safety with showering in a tub
- not usually covered by insurance

Shower Seat
- improve safety with showering
- not usually covered by insurance
Adaptive Equipment

Occupational Therapists can help improve independence and safety:
- Feeding
- Grooming
- Dressing
- Cooking

Last thoughts

- Mobility is key
- Pressure reliefs every 20 minutes to prevent pressure sores
- Safety take priority
- Insurance covers assistive device for home use only. AD for community mobility is not covered.
Resources

Medicare coverage