

# Local Coverage Determination (LCD): Canes and Crutches (L33733)

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## Contractor Information

CONTRACTOR NAME	CONTRACT TYPE	CONTRACT NUMBER	JURISDICTION	STATE(S)
CGS Administrators, LLC	DME MAC	17013 - DME MAC	J-B	Illinois Indiana Kentucky Michigan Minnesota Ohio Wisconsin
CGS Administrators, LLC	DME MAC	18003 - DME MAC	J-C	Alabama Arkansas Colorado Florida Georgia Louisiana Mississippi New Mexico North Carolina Oklahoma Puerto Rico South Carolina Tennessee Texas Virgin Islands Virginia West Virginia
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	DME MAC	16013 - DME MAC	J-A	Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia Maine Maryland Massachusetts New Hampshire New Jersey New York - Entire State Pennsylvania Rhode Island Vermont

CONTRACTOR NAME	CONTRACT TYPE	CONTRACT NUMBER	JURISDICTION	STATE(S)
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	DME MAC	19003 - DME MAC	J-D	Alaska American Samoa Arizona California - Entire State Guam Hawaii Idaho Iowa Kansas Missouri - Entire State Montana Nebraska Nevada North Dakota Northern Mariana Islands Oregon South Dakota Utah Washington Wyoming

## LCD Information

### Document Information

**LCD ID**

L33733

**Original ICD-9 LCD ID**

[L4989](#)

[L27224](#)

[L11496](#)

[L11485](#)

**LCD Title**

Canes and Crutches

**Proposed LCD in Comment Period**

N/A

**Source Proposed LCD**

N/A

**Original Effective Date**

For services performed on or after 10/01/2015

**Revision Effective Date**

For services performed on or after 01/01/2020

**Revision Ending Date**

N/A

**Retirement Date**

N/A

**Notice Period Start Date**

N/A

**Notice Period End Date**

N/A

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## **CMS National Coverage Policy**

CMS Pub. 100-03, Medicare National Coverage Determinations Manual, Chapter 1, Section 280.2, 280.3

### **Coverage Guidance**

#### **Coverage Indications, Limitations, and/or Medical Necessity**

For any item to be covered by Medicare, it must 1) be eligible for a defined Medicare benefit category, 2) be reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of illness or injury or to improve the functioning of a malformed body member, and 3) meet all other applicable Medicare statutory and regulatory requirements.

The purpose of a Local Coverage Determination (LCD) is to provide information regarding “reasonable and necessary” criteria based on Social Security Act § 1862(a)(1)(A) provisions.

In addition to the "reasonable and necessary" criteria contained in this LCD there are other payment rules, which are discussed in the following documents, that must also be met prior to Medicare reimbursement:

- The LCD-related Standard Documentation Requirements Article, located at the bottom of this policy under the Related Local Coverage Documents section.
- The LCD-related Policy Article, located at the bottom of this policy under the Related Local Coverage Documents section.
- Refer to the Supplier Manual for additional information on documentation requirements.
- Refer to the DME MAC web sites for additional bulletin articles and other publications related to this LCD.

For the items addressed in this LCD, the "reasonable and necessary" criteria, based on Social Security Act § 1862(a)(1)(A) provisions, are defined by the following coverage indications, limitations and/or medical necessity.

Canes (E0100, E0105) and crutches (E0110, E0111, E0112, E0113, E0114, E0116) are covered if all of the following criteria (1-3) are met:

1. The beneficiary has a mobility limitation that significantly impairs his/her ability to participate in one or more mobility-related activities of daily living (MRADL) in the home.

The MRADLs to be considered in this and all other statements in this policy are toileting, feeding, dressing, grooming, and bathing performed in customary locations in the home.

A mobility limitation is one that:

- a. Prevents the beneficiary from accomplishing the MRADL entirely, or,
- b. Places the beneficiary at reasonably determined heightened risk of morbidity or mortality secondary to the attempts to perform an MRADL; or,
- c. Prevents the beneficiary from completing the MRADL within a reasonable time frame;

And,

2. The beneficiary is able to safely use the cane or crutch; and,
3. The functional mobility deficit can be sufficiently resolved by use of a cane or crutch.

If all of the criteria are not met, the cane or crutch will be denied as not reasonable and necessary.

The medical necessity for an underarm, articulating, spring assisted crutch (E0117) has not been established; therefore, if an E0117 is ordered, it will be denied as not reasonable and necessary.

## GENERAL

A Standard Written Order (SWO) must be communicated to the supplier before a claim is submitted. If the supplier bills for an item addressed in this policy without first receiving a completed SWO, the claim shall be denied as not reasonable and necessary.

For Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics and Supplies (DMEPOS) base items that require a Written Order Prior to Delivery (WOPD), the supplier must have received a signed SWO before the DMEPOS item is delivered to a beneficiary. If a supplier delivers a DMEPOS item without first receiving a WOPD, the claim shall be denied as not reasonable and necessary. Refer to the LCD-related Policy Article, located at the bottom of this policy under the Related Local Coverage Documents section.

For DMEPOS base items that require a WOPD, and also require separately billed associated options, accessories, and/or supplies, the supplier must have received a WOPD which lists the base item and which may list all the associated options, accessories, and/or supplies that are separately billed prior to the delivery of the items. In this scenario, if the supplier separately bills for associated options, accessories, and/or supplies without first receiving a completed and signed WOPD of the base item prior to delivery, the claim(s) shall be denied as not reasonable and necessary.

An item/service is correctly coded when it meets all the coding guidelines listed in CMS HCPCS guidelines, LCDs, LCD-related Policy Articles, or DME MAC articles. Claims that do not meet coding guidelines shall be denied as not reasonable and necessary/incorrectly coded.

Proof of delivery (POD) is a Supplier Standard and DMEPOS suppliers are required to maintain POD documentation in their files. Proof of delivery documentation must be made available to the Medicare contractor upon request. All services that do not have appropriate proof of delivery from the supplier shall be denied as not reasonable and necessary.

### **Summary of Evidence**

N/A

### **Analysis of Evidence (Rationale for Determination)**

N/A

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## **Coding Information**

### **Bill Type Codes:**

Contractors may specify Bill Types to help providers identify those Bill Types typically used to report this service. Absence of a Bill Type does not guarantee that the policy does not apply to that Bill Type. Complete absence of all Bill Types indicates that coverage is not influenced by Bill Type and the policy should be assumed to apply equally to all claims.

N/A

**Revenue Codes:**

Contractors may specify Revenue Codes to help providers identify those Revenue Codes typically used to report this service. In most instances Revenue Codes are purely advisory. Unless specified in the policy, services reported under other Revenue Codes are equally subject to this coverage determination. Complete absence of all Revenue Codes indicates that coverage is not influenced by Revenue Code and the policy should be assumed to apply equally to all Revenue Codes.

N/A

**CPT/HCPCS Codes****Group 1 Paragraph:**

The appearance of a code in this section does not necessarily indicate coverage.

**HCPCS MODIFIERS:**

EY – No physician or other licensed health care provider order for this item or service

**HCPCS CODES:****Group 1 Codes:**

CODE	DESCRIPTION
A4635	UNDERARM PAD, CRUTCH, REPLACEMENT, EACH
A4636	REPLACEMENT, HANDGRIP, CANE, CRUTCH, OR WALKER, EACH
A4637	REPLACEMENT, TIP, CANE, CRUTCH, WALKER, EACH.
A9270	NON-COVERED ITEM OR SERVICE
E0100	CANE, INCLUDES CANES OF ALL MATERIALS, ADJUSTABLE OR FIXED, WITH TIP
E0105	CANE, QUAD OR THREE PRONG, INCLUDES CANES OF ALL MATERIALS, ADJUSTABLE OR FIXED, WITH TIPS
E0110	CRUTCHES, FOREARM, INCLUDES CRUTCHES OF VARIOUS MATERIALS, ADJUSTABLE OR FIXED, PAIR, COMPLETE WITH TIPS AND HANDGRIPS
E0111	CRUTCH FOREARM, INCLUDES CRUTCHES OF VARIOUS MATERIALS, ADJUSTABLE OR FIXED, EACH, WITH TIP AND HANDGRIPS
E0112	CRUTCHES UNDERARM, WOOD, ADJUSTABLE OR FIXED, PAIR, WITH PADS, TIPS AND HANDGRIPS
E0113	CRUTCH UNDERARM, WOOD, ADJUSTABLE OR FIXED, EACH, WITH PAD, TIP AND HANDGRIP
E0114	CRUTCHES UNDERARM, OTHER THAN WOOD, ADJUSTABLE OR FIXED, PAIR, WITH PADS, TIPS AND HANDGRIPS

CODE	DESCRIPTION
E0116	CRUTCH, UNDERARM, OTHER THAN WOOD, ADJUSTABLE OR FIXED, WITH PAD, TIP, HANDGRIP, WITH OR WITHOUT SHOCK ABSORBER, EACH
E0117	CRUTCH, UNDERARM, ARTICULATING, SPRING ASSISTED, EACH
E0118	CRUTCH SUBSTITUTE, LOWER LEG PLATFORM, WITH OR WITHOUT WHEELS, EACH
E0153	PLATFORM ATTACHMENT, FOREARM CRUTCH, EACH

#### ICD-10 Codes that Support Medical Necessity

N/A

#### ICD-10 Codes that DO NOT Support Medical Necessity

N/A

#### Additional ICD-10 Information

N/A

## General Information

### Associated Information

### DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

Section 1833(e) of the Social Security Act precludes payment to any provider of services unless "there has been furnished such information as may be necessary in order to determine the amounts due such provider." It is expected that the beneficiary's medical records will reflect the need for the care provided. The beneficiary's medical records include the treating practitioner's office records, hospital records, nursing home records, home health agency records, records from other healthcare professionals and test reports. This documentation must be available upon request.

### GENERAL DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to justify payment for DMEPOS items, suppliers must meet the following requirements:

- SWO
- Medical Record Information (including continued need/use if applicable)
- Correct Coding
- Proof of Delivery

Refer to the LCD-related Standard Documentation Requirements article, located at the bottom of this policy under the Related Local Coverage Documents section for additional information regarding these requirements.

Refer to the Supplier Manual for additional information on documentation requirements.

Refer to the DME MAC web sites for additional bulletin articles and other publications related to this LCD.

## **POLICY SPECIFIC DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS**

Items covered in this LCD have additional policy-specific requirements that must be met prior to Medicare reimbursement.

Refer to the LCD-related Policy article, located at the bottom of this policy under the Related Local Coverage Documents section for additional information.

### **Miscellaneous**

### **Appendices**

### **Utilization Guidelines**

Refer to Coverage Indications, Limitations and/or Medical Necessity

### **Sources of Information**

N/A

### **Bibliography**

N/A

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## **Revision History Information**

<b>REVISION HISTORY DATE</b>	<b>REVISION HISTORY NUMBER</b>	<b>REVISION HISTORY EXPLANATION</b>	<b>REASON(S) FOR CHANGE</b>
01/01/2020	R5	Revision Effective Date: 01/01/2020 COVERAGE INDICATIONS, LIMITATIONS AND/OR MEDICAL NECESSITY: Revised: Format of HCPCS code references, from code spans to individually-listed HCPCS Revised: Order information as a result of Final Rule 1713 GENERAL DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS: Revised: Prescriptions (orders) to SWO  <i>02/06/2020: Pursuant to the 21st Century Cures Act ,</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provider Education/Guidance</li></ul>



REVISION HISTORY DATE	REVISION HISTORY NUMBER	REVISION HISTORY EXPLANATION	REASON(S) FOR CHANGE
		<p><i>these revisions do not require notice and comment because they are due to non-discretionary coverage updates reflective of CMS FR-1713, HCPCS code changes, and non-substantive corrections (listing individual HCPCS codes instead of a HCPCS code-span).</i></p>	
01/01/2017	R4	<p>Revision Effective Date: 01/01/2017            COVERAGE INDICATIONS, INDICATIONS, LIMITATIONS AND/OR MEDICAL NECESSITY:            Removed: Standard Documentation Language            Added: New reference language and directions to Standard Documentation Requirements            Added: General Requirements            DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS:            Removed: Standard Documentation Language            Added: General Documentation Requirements            Added: New reference language and directions to Standard Documentation Requirements            POLICY SPECIFIC DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS:            Removed: Standard Documentation Language            Added: Direction to Standard Documentation Requirements            Removed: Supplier Manual reference from Miscellaneous            Removed: PIM reference from Appendices            RELATED LOCAL COVERAGE DOCUMENTS:            Added: LCD-related Standard Documentation Requirements article</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provider Education/Guidance</li> </ul>
07/01/2016	R3	<p>Revision Effective Date: 07/01/2016            DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS:            Revised: Standard documentation language for orders, added New order requirements, and Correct coding instructions; revised Proof of delivery instructions – Effective 04/28/16</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provider Education/Guidance</li> </ul>
07/01/2016	R2	<p>Effective July 1, 2016 oversight for DME MAC LCDs is the responsibility of CGS Administrators, LLC 18003 and 17013 and Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC 19003 and 16013. No other changes have been made to the LCDs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change in Assigned States or Affiliated Contract Numbers</li> </ul>

REVISION HISTORY DATE	REVISION HISTORY NUMBER	REVISION HISTORY EXPLANATION	REASON(S) FOR CHANGE
10/01/2015	R1	Revision Effective Date: 10/31/2014 COVERAGE INDICATIONS, LIMITATIONS AND/OR MEDICAL NECESSITY: Revised: Standard Documentation Language to add covered prior to a beneficiary's Medicare eligibility DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS: Revised: Standard Documentation Language to add who can enter date of delivery date on the POD Added: Instructions for Equipment Retained from a Prior Payer Revised: Repair to beneficiary-owned DMEPOS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provider Education/Guidance</li> </ul>

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## Associated Documents

### Attachments

N/A

### Related Local Coverage Documents

Article(s)

A52459 - Canes and Crutches - Policy Article

A55426 - Standard Documentation Requirements for All Claims Submitted to DME MACs

### Related National Coverage Documents

N/A

### Public Version(s)

Updated on 01/31/2020 with effective dates 01/01/2020 - N/A

Updated on 03/24/2017 with effective dates 01/01/2017 - 12/31/2019

Some older versions have been archived. Please visit the MCD Archive Site to retrieve them.

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## Keywords

N/A

**END OF LOCAL COVERAGE DETERMINATION**

Per the Code of Federal Regulations, 42 C.F.R § 426. 325, only those portions of the currently effective Local Coverage Determination (LCD) that are based on section 1862(a)(1)(A) of the Social Security Act, may be challenged through an acceptable complaint as described in 42 C.F.R § 426.400. Also, per 42 C.F.R § 426.325 items that are not reviewable, and therefore cannot be challenged, include the Policy Article. Please note the distinction of the documents when reviewing the materials.

## Local Coverage Article: Canes and Crutches - Policy Article (A52459)

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### Contractor Information

CONTRACTOR NAME	CONTRACT TYPE	CONTRACT NUMBER	JURISDICTION	STATE(S)
CGS Administrators, LLC	DME MAC	17013 - DME MAC	J-B	Illinois Indiana Kentucky Michigan Minnesota Ohio Wisconsin
CGS Administrators, LLC	DME MAC	18003 - DME MAC	J-C	Alabama Arkansas Colorado Florida Georgia Louisiana Mississippi New Mexico North Carolina Oklahoma Puerto Rico South Carolina Tennessee Texas Virgin Islands Virginia West Virginia
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	DME MAC	16013 - DME MAC	J-A	Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia Maine Maryland Massachusetts New Hampshire New Jersey New York - Entire State Pennsylvania Rhode Island Vermont

CONTRACTOR NAME	CONTRACT TYPE	CONTRACT NUMBER	JURISDICTION	STATE(S)
Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	DME MAC	19003 - DME MAC	J-D	Alaska American Samoa Arizona California - Entire State Guam Hawaii Idaho Iowa Kansas Missouri - Entire State Montana Nebraska Nevada North Dakota Northern Mariana Islands Oregon South Dakota Utah Washington Wyoming

## Article Information

### General Information

**Article ID**

A52459

**Original Effective Date**

10/01/2015

**Original ICD-9 Article ID**

[A23925](#)

[A47056](#)

[A23660](#)

[A23897](#)

**Revision Effective Date**

01/01/2020

**Revision Ending Date**

N/A

**Article Title**

Canes and Crutches - Policy Article

**Retirement Date**

N/A

**Article Type**

Article

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## **Article Guidance**

### **Article Text:**

### **NON-MEDICAL NECESSITY COVERAGE AND PAYMENT RULES**

For any item to be covered by Medicare, it must 1) be eligible for a defined Medicare benefit category, 2) be reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of illness or injury or to improve the functioning of a malformed body member, and 3) meet all other applicable Medicare statutory and regulatory requirements. Information provided in this policy article relates to determinations other than those based on Social Security Act §1862(a)(1)(A) provisions (i.e. "reasonable and necessary").

Canes and Crutches are covered under the Durable Medical Equipment benefit (Social Security Act §1861(s)(6)). In order for a beneficiary's equipment to be eligible for reimbursement the reasonable and necessary (R&N) requirements set out in the related Local Coverage Determination must be met. In addition, there are specific statutory payment policy requirements, discussed below, that also must be met.

A white cane for a blind person is noncovered since it is a "self help" item.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIFIC DMEPOS ITEMS PURSUANT TO Final Rule 1713 (84 Fed. Reg Vol 217)**

Final Rule 1713 (84 Fed. Reg Vol 217) requires a face-to-face encounter and a Written Order Prior to Delivery (WOPD) for specified HCPCS codes. CMS and the DME MACs provides a list of the specified codes, which is periodically updated. The link will be located here once it is available.

Claims for the specified items subject to Final Rule 1713 (84 Fed. Reg Vol 217) that do not meet the face-to-face encounter and WOPD requirements specified in the LCD- related Standard Documentation Requirements Article (A55426) will be denied as not reasonable and necessary.

If a supplier delivers an item prior to receipt of a WOPD, it will be denied as not reasonable and necessary. If the WOPD is not obtained prior to delivery, payment will not be made for that item even if a WOPD is subsequently obtained by the supplier. If a similar item is subsequently provided by an unrelated supplier who has obtained a WOPD prior to delivery, it will be eligible for coverage.

## **POLICY SPECIFIC DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS**

In addition to policy specific documentation requirements, there are general documentation requirements that are applicable to all DMEPOS policies. These general requirements are located in the DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS section of the LCD.

Refer to the LCD-related Standard Documentation Requirements article, located at the bottom of this Policy Article under the Related Local Coverage Documents section for additional information regarding GENERAL DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS and the POLICY SPECIFIC DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS.

## **CODING GUIDELINES**

Code A9270 must be used for a white cane for a blind person.

All canes and crutches are billed using the specific codes listed in the Local Coverage Determination regardless of their stated weight capacity. Do not use code E1399 (DME, miscellaneous) to code any type of cane or crutch regardless of special features or weight capacity.

Code E0117 describes an articulating crutch which has two crutch legs connected by a bar between them which helps propel the beneficiary forward.

Code E0118 describes a crutch substitute which can be either a device strapped to the lower leg with a platform or a device with wheels and a platform the beneficiary propels with their sound limb.

Canes or crutches which contain a spring that reduces impact and vibration against the ground should not be billed with E1399. These types of canes or crutches should be coded with the existing codes for canes or crutches.

Suppliers should contact the Pricing, Data Analysis and Coding (PDAC) Contractor for guidance on the correct coding of these items.

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# Coding Information

**CPT/HCPCS Codes**

N/A

**ICD-10 Codes that Support Medical Necessity**

N/A

**ICD-10 Codes that DO NOT Support Medical Necessity**

N/A

**Additional ICD-10 Information**

N/A

**Bill Type Codes:**

Contractors may specify Bill Types to help providers identify those Bill Types typically used to report this service. Absence of a Bill Type does not guarantee that the policy does not apply to that Bill Type. Complete absence of all Bill Types indicates that coverage is not influenced by Bill Type and the policy should be assumed to apply equally to all claims.

N/A

**Revenue Codes:**

Contractors may specify Revenue Codes to help providers identify those Revenue Codes typically used to report this service. In most instances Revenue Codes are purely advisory. Unless specified in the policy, services reported under other Revenue Codes are equally subject to this coverage determination. Complete absence of all Revenue Codes indicates that coverage is not influenced by Revenue Code and the policy should be assumed to apply equally to all Revenue Codes.

N/A

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# Revision History Information



REVISION HISTORY DATE	REVISION HISTORY NUMBER	REVISION HISTORY EXPLANATION
01/01/2020	R4	<p>Revision Effective Date: 01/01/2020</p> <p>REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIFIC DMEPOS ITEMS PURSUANT TO FINAL RULE 1713 (84 Fed. Reg Vol 217):</p> <p>Added: Section and related information based on Final Rule 1713</p> <p>ICD-10 CODES THAT SUPPORT MEDICAL NECESSITY:</p> <p>Revised: Section header "ICD-10 Codes that are Covered" updated to "ICD-10 Codes that Support Medical Necessity"</p> <p>ICD-10 CODES THAT DO NOT SUPPORT MEDICAL NECESSITY:</p> <p>Revised: Section header "ICD-10 Codes that are Not Covered" updated to "ICD-10 Codes that DO NOT Support Medical Necessity"</p> <p><i>02/06/2020: At this time 21st Century Cures Act applies to new and revised LCDs which require comment and notice. This revision is to an article that is not a local coverage determination.</i></p>
01/01/2017	R3	<p><i>01/31/2019: At this time 21st Century Cures Act applies to new and revised LCDs which require comment and notice. This is an article and not a local coverage determination.</i></p>
01/01/2017	R2	<p>Revision Effective Date: 01/01/2017</p> <p>POLICY SPECIFIC DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS:</p> <p>Added: Direction to Standard Documentation Requirements</p> <p>RELATED LOCAL COVERAGE DOCUMENTS:</p> <p>Added: LCD-related Standard Documentation Requirements Language Article</p>
07/01/2016	R1	<p>Effective July 1, 2016 oversight for DME MAC Articles is the responsibility of CGS Administrators, LLC 18003 and 17013 and Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC 19003 and 16013. No other changes have been made to the Articles.</p>

## Associated Documents

### Related Local Coverage Document(s)

Article(s)

A55426 - Standard Documentation Requirements for All Claims Submitted to DME MACs

LCD(s)

L33733 - Canes and Crutches

### Related National Coverage Document(s)

N/A

### Statutory Requirements URL(s)

N/A

### Rules and Regulations URL(s)

N/A

**CMS Manual Explanations URL(s)**

N/A

**Other URL(s)**

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# Keywords

N/A