

What medical equipment will I need?



Many people leaving the hospital will have specialized equipment for their recovery period. Beyond a wheelchair and walker, there are other items of *durable medical equipment* that help with accessibility and mobility, such as grab bars, raised toilet seats, and railings for your toilet. You may need a portable seat in your shower. Some seats are completely inside the bathtub or shower stall. But if you can't step over the tub side or lip of the shower stall, there are shower benches that you sit on and slide over to get into the tub or shower. This book reviews common durable medical equipment and provides questions you can ask about the equipment, its ordering, and its costs.

Can you get in and out of the car without assistance? Will you need a hospital bed at home? Can your family or caregiver get you out of bed once you are back home? Can you get up off the toilet? These are things that can be assessed at the hospital, especially if you request it. If it is needed, you can get extra training for your family or caregiver before you leave. It is also possible to have a

trained physical or occupational therapist visit your home before you leave the hospital to check for accessibility, equipment needs, and safety issues. You are more likely to get these services if you ask for them well before your release date.

If you are going to a rehabilitation hospital or to a skilled nursing facility many of these items will be provided for you to use while you are there. I provide a list of common equipment so that you can ask the hospital's discharge planner what you will need. Also, there may be equipment you would find useful that may not be recommended to you unless you specifically ask. Before you leave the hospital is the best time to explore all avenues for your comfort and recovery. Once you leave, you may not have the help available to get the equipment ordered and delivered.

Equipment	Supplier (what company was it ordered from?) Company Name/phone	How much will it cost me?	Can I rent the equipment?
wheelchair			
walker			

Equipment	Supplier (what company was it ordered from?) Company Name/phone	How much will it cost me?	Can I rent the equipment?
cane			
commode chair			
bathtub/shower safety seat			
grab bars			
oxygen related equipment			
bandages			
gloves			

Will the equipment/supplies be delivered? __yes _____ no

If yes, when? (day, time)

Who will be at home for the delivery?

Will that person have a phone for the delivery person to call first?

_____yes _____no

What is that number? _____

If no, who will pick up?
