

Casted Leg: Home Equipment Needs

Your child may need special equipment such as a wagon, a wheelchair with leg lifts or a hospital bed at home while he or she has a leg cast (Picture 1). The equipment needed depends on:

- The age and size of your child
- The type of cast(s)
- The recommended activities for your child

Doctor's Order

To help your child's leg(s) heal, please follow your doctor's instructions. Your doctor recommends the following:

- No standing or walking
- Standing or walking with crutches or orthopedic walker
- No weight-bearing on right leg
- No weight-bearing on left leg
- Other _____
- Be sure to read your instruction sheet for activity instructions.
- An older child may need a reclining wheelchair with leg lifts to keep legs raised. This makes it easier for your child to move around until the cast is removed (Picture 2).
- Depending on the age and size of your child, a hospital bed with a trapeze bar may be helpful (Picture 3, page 2). You can raise and lower this bed, making it easier to care for your child. A trapeze bar helps your child move in and out of bed. A nurse or a physical therapist at the hospital will show your child how to use a trapeze bar.



Picture 1 A wagon will make it easier for your child to get around.



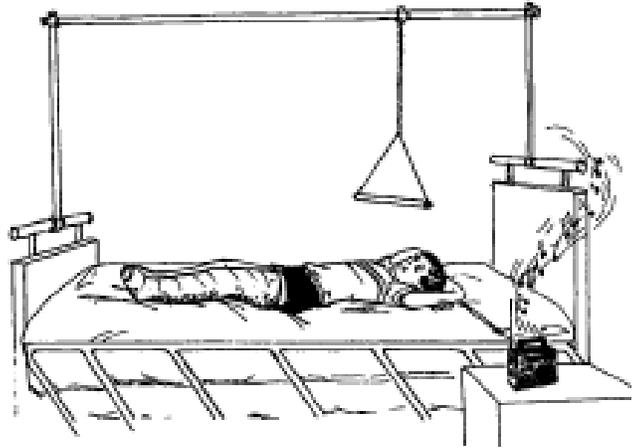
Picture 2 A reclining wheelchair with leg lifts.

How to Get Needed Equipment

Many companies and hospitals rent wheelchairs and hospital beds. The yellow pages of the phone book list these companies under "Hospital Equipment and Supplies." Please tell your nurse if you have trouble finding a company or the equipment you need.

There are several ways to pay for the rental of equipment. Some of these are:

- **Private Insurance Companies** may pay for all, part or none of the cost of home equipment your doctor prescribes. Your insurance company may have a list of certain equipment companies they will pay. Call your insurance company to get this information.
- **Medicaid** may pay for a wheelchair or hospital bed prescribed by your doctor. They will pay only certain companies. Your Medicaid caseworker can help you get this information.
- **BCMH** - The Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps (a division of the Ohio Department of Health) may pay for a wheelchair or hospital bed prescribed by your doctor if your child is currently on BCMH. Ask your doctor to send a letter to BCMH requesting payment for the equipment. BCMH will pay only certain companies. When you call equipment companies, ask if they are a BCMH company. Call the BCMH office at (614) 466-1700 and they will tell you what they will pay for.
- **No Insurance** - Ask equipment companies if they have a payment plan based on your ability to pay.



Picture 3 A hospital bed with a trapeze bar.

Selecting an Equipment Company

When calling equipment companies, consider the following:

- Is the company close to where you live?
- What are the prices?
- Do they deliver and pick up the equipment?
- Do they rent equipment?
- Do they accept your type of payment?
- Use the forms on pages 3 and 4 to record this information.

Ordering Equipment

When you have chosen a company, they will ask for this information:

- How long you will need the equipment
- The reason your child was admitted to the hospital
- Your payment plan
- A doctor's prescription
- Your name and address for delivery and pick up
- Type of equipment needed and special measurements (fill in the information below before you call).

For Renting a Wheelchair:	For Renting a Hospital Bed:
Child's weight: _____	Front door height _____ width _____
Type of cast: _____	Size of your child's room _____
Widest part of your child's cast (inches): _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Room doorway height _____ width _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Reclining wheelchair	<input type="checkbox"/> Stairway height _____ width _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Leg lifts	<input type="checkbox"/> Hallway height _____ width _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Removable sides	

Equipment Company Information

Company Name: _____	Phone: _____
Address: _____	City: _____
State: _____	Zip Code: _____
Type of Equipment: _____	Cost: _____
Rental Rates: _____	Type of Payment Accepted: _____
Pickup and Delivery Terms: _____ _____	

Equipment Company Information

Company Name: _____	Phone: _____
Address: _____	City: _____
State: _____	Zip Code: _____
Type of Equipment: _____	Cost: _____
Rental Rates: _____	Type of Payment Accepted: _____
Pickup and Delivery Terms: _____	

Transportation

It is important to consider your child's safety when riding in a car. This includes going home from the hospital and returning for follow-up visits. Be sure to talk about this with your nurse or occupational therapist before you are ready to travel.

- If your child is less than 4 years of age or weighs less than 40 pounds and is able to sit up, a car seat will be needed. If your child's car seat is too narrow, an occupational therapist from the hospital can fit your child for a special car seat.
- If your child is over 4 years of age, over 40 pounds and able to sit up (with legs forward), a seat belt may be fine.
- Special safety harnesses are also available if your child will need to lie flat in the back seat of your car. An occupational therapist can teach you how to use this special equipment. Refer to the Helping Hand, *Car Safety: E-Z On Modified Vest*, HH-IV-87.)

If you have any questions, be sure to ask your doctor or nurse.