

**August 29, 2007**

# **Montana Medicaid Notice**

## **Durable Medical Equipment Providers**

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### **Criteria for Gait Trainers**

**Effective January 1, 2007**

Medicare Description: Gait Trainer is a term used to describe certain devices that are used to support a patient during ambulation.

Blue Cross/Blue Shield Description: A gait trainer is a type of walker which provides considerable postural support for patients who require moderate or maximum support for ambulation.

#### **Criteria**

- The client is unable to ambulate independently with a standard front or reverse walker because of the need for postural support, due to a chronic neurological condition including abnormal movement patterns, poor balance, poor endurance, or other clearly documented reasons.
- The anticipated functional benefits of walking are not attainable with the use of a walker.
- Must demonstrate tolerance for standing and weight bearing through the lower extremities.
- Potential benefits to the individual of assisted walking must be clearly documented as follows:
  - The client must be involved in a therapy program established by a physical therapist. The program must include measurable documented objectives and functional goals related to the client and equipment that includes a written carry over plan to be utilized by the client and/or caregiver. The equipment must match the user's needs and ability level.
  - The client has had a trial of the requested gait trainer (GT) and the client shows compliance, willingness, and ability to use the GT in the home.
  - Video of client using the requested GT home demonstrating ability to use GT by showing potential for progress to meet goals and objectives.

#### **Contact Information**

For Medicare criteria visit the CMS website: <http://www.noridianmedicare.com>

For claims questions or additional information, contact Fran O'Hara, DME Program Officer, at (406) 444-5296 or Provider Relations:

**Provider Relations toll-free in- and out-of-state: 1-800-624-3958**  
**Helena: (406) 442-1837**

Visit the Provider Information website:

**<http://www.mtmedicaid.org>**