

Wijit

Medicare HCPCS Code: K0108, Other accessories

This code is a miscellaneous code and requires a complete description of the product when billing to Medicare.

Wijit Description and Elements of Medical Necessity

The Wijit is a manual-assist device for use with manual wheelchairs that alleviates load on the upper extremities and amplifies the user's strength, making it easier to propel a manual wheelchair in and out of the home.

The Wijit is an accessory to a manual wheelchair. It provides a wheelchair user with additional "leverage" through a lever arm and mechanical gearing. Good posture and strong back support allows the use of larger muscle groups. Braking is achieved by pulling the lever arms inwards.

Wijits can be fitted to almost any manual wheelchair. A quick release mechanism allows simple removal of the Wijit for wheelchair transport. There is no requirement for batteries or electrical connection.

The Wijit lever-based manual-assist wheelchair driving and braking system provides a more functional and less expensive option (versus a power wheelchair or other wheelchair assist devices) for people who still have some ability in pushing a manual wheelchair. Without the added assistance of the Wijit, users with marginal ability to self propel in a manual wheelchair will not be able to perform their MRADLs within the home unless in the more expensive power wheelchair.

The Wijit driving and braking system is the least costly alternative to manual-assist and power-assist devices for use on manual wheelchairs, power wheelchairs and POVs.

A power wheelchair or scooter is not functional within this user's home due to size.

The user has limited means of transportation for his/her powered mobility device.

Examples of Medical Justification

1. Bobby is a 40 yr old male patient with Cerebral Palsy. He currently uses a power wheelchair for primary functional mobility, but he does not have the means of transporting a power wheelchair. He has a manual wheelchair but he reports being limited by endurance and impaired upper extremity motor control secondary to his CP. Bobby also has some weakness in his right shoulder due to injury 18 months ago. He notes increasing difficulty with bed-to-chair transfers secondary to arm/shoulder weakness. Bobby would benefit from the use of the Wijit added to his manual wheelchair. This device will improve his muscular and cardiovascular endurance contributing to independence in his MRADL, and minimize the eventual requirement for drug intervention for the pain in his upper extremities.

2. Brian is a 52 yr old male patient with paraplegia from a T5 spinal cord injury at age 19. Brian requires ultra lightweight manual wheelchair for all MRADLs. After 33 years of the repetitive grip and release motion required for propelling the manual wheelchair, Brian has developed carpal tunnel in both wrists. The Wijit allows Brian to maintain grip of the lever arms during propulsion thus avoiding load on his wrists. With the Wijit, Brian remains independent with mobility, propulsion of manual wheelchair.
3. Mary is a 41 yr old female with Multiple Sclerosis. For past 14 yrs, Mary has achieved mobility independence using an ultra lightweight manual wheelchair. As a result of disease progression, Joan suffers from debilitating fatigue and lack of endurance in her upper extremities. She now requires help from a caregiver for mobility in parts of her home in her daily activities. The Wijit system with a 1:1 gear ratio amplifies the patient's strength and would allow her to accomplish her MRADLs without assistance. The use of larger muscle groups and better posture will enhance her endurance to complete MRADLs without fatigue.
4. Julia is a 40 yr old female patient with incomplete quadriplegia resulting from C5-6 SCI 6 months ago. Julia is non-ambulatory but retains good function of her upper extremities and maintains posture control in a manual wheelchair. Her home environment does not accommodate use of a power wheelchair; wheelbase of power wheelchair is not maneuverable. Julia is able to maintain function, safety, and independence with MRADLs with the addition of a Wijit to her manual wheelchair.
5. Joe who is a 61-year-old male with C5 sensory and C6 motor tetraplegia since 1960. With his SCI, he has only use of his biceps and wrist extensors. He has no functional use of his triceps. With a SCI for over 40 years, he developed significant degeneration of his shoulders as he uses them as weight bearing joints and has rotator cuff tendonitis. His condition requires the use of an ultra light wheelchair but worsening upper extremity degeneration may require a power wheelchair. As a least costly alternative to a power wheelchair, Joe can resume safety, independence, and function with a Wijit added to manual wheelchair.