Walkers, Canes, and Crutches

Documentation Required:

- **All insurance payers:**
  - Prescription
  - Medical record notes specifying medical necessity

- **Prescription Requirements:**
  - Start Date
  - Patient Name
  - Provider Name
  - Detailed description of item(s) prescribed (i.e. – 4 wheeled walker with seat)
  - ICD-10 code(s)
  - Length of need
  - Provider signature with credentials
  - Provider signature date (in addition to start date of prescription)

- **Face to face visit, progress note, or physical therapy evaluation notes must specify:**
  - **Canes and Crutches**
    - Mobility limitation that significantly impairs his/her ability to participate in one or more mobility-related activities of daily living (MRADL) in the home.
    - Able to safely use item
    - Deficit can be resolved by use of item
    - Height and weight of patient within 30 days of prescription

  - **Walkers (No wheels, two wheels, or 4 wheels)**
    - Four wheeled walkers generally come with a seat attachment. If this item is needed, it must be on the prescription to bill insurance.
    - Mobility limitation that significantly impairs his/her ability to participate in one or more mobility-related activities of daily living (MRADL) in the home.
    - Able to safely use item
    - Deficit can be resolved by use of item
    - Height and weight of patient within 30 days of prescription

Mobility-Related Activities of Daily Living (MRADLs): toileting, feeding, dressing, grooming, bathing, etc., in customary locations in the home.

A mobility limitation is one that:

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