Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

About Durable Medical Equipment: Bed Canes

This resource explains what a bed cane is, how to use it, and where you can buy it.

What is a bed cane?

A bed cane is a device that can help you get in and out of bed easily (see Figure 1). Bed canes give you extra support to:

- Stand up when getting out of bed.
- Sit down when getting into bed.



Figure 1. Bed cane

How to use a bed cane

Place the bed cane platform between your mattress pad and the box spring (see Figure 2). You can put the bed cane on the right or left side of your bed.

Once it's in place, you can use the handle to support your weight. This will help you safely stand up, sit down, or lie down in bed.



Figure 2. Bed cane placed between mattress and box spring

Where to buy a bed cane

You can buy a bed cane at:

- Medical supply stores or websites.
- Retail drug stores (Walgreens or CVS).
- Supercenters (Walmart or Target).
- Home supply stores (Lowe's or Home Depot).
- Online retailers (Amazon).

Insurance plans do not often cover bed canes. Check with your insurer to find out what your plan covers before buying one. If your plan covers it, ask your healthcare provider for a prescription for the accessories you need. Follow your insurer's instructions for getting coverage.

If you have questions or concerns, contact your healthcare provider. A member of your care team will answer Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Outside those hours, you can leave a message or talk with another MSK provider. There is always a doctor or nurse on call. If you're not sure how to reach your healthcare provider, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.

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