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PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

# About Durable Medical Equipment: Bed Canes

This information 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

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# How to Use a Bed Cane

Place the bed cane platform between your mattress pad and the box spring (see Figure 2). You can place the bed cane on the right or left side of your bed. Once in place, you can use the handle to support your weight. This will help you to 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 the following places:

- Medical supply stores.
- Medical supply websites.
- Retail drug stores, such as Walgreens or CVS.
- Supercenters, such as Wal-Mart.
- Home supply stores, such as Lowe's or Home Depot.
- Online retailers, such as Amazon.

Insurance plans often don't 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 for buying it.

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](http://www.mskcc.org/pe) to search our virtual library.

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