



## Information sheet no.18

# Aids and nursing aids

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Assistive devices are items that compensate for physical impairments and help people lead more independent lives. They can be recommended in writing by the medical service (MD) in the nursing report and by nursing specialists or prescribed by a doctor.

Assistive devices can be divided into the following groups:

- Medical technology aids, e.g., inhalation devices, oxygen concentrators
- Communication aids such as visual, hearing and speech aids
- Orthopedic aids, e.g. wheelchairs
- Incontinence products, e.g. incontinence pads
- Aids against decubitus, e.g. anti-decubitus mattresses, seat cushions
- Mobility aids, e.g. Rollers, sliding boards, ramps

### The right aid

The aids are individually adapted with regard to the body size, the individual impairment and the spatial environment. A comprehensive consultation in advance is recommended.

### Funding / Financing

The health insurance fund often covers the costs of prescribed aids.

For some aids, the health insurers have agreed fixed amounts or flat rates per case. If a higher-value aid is chosen, the costs exceeding the fixed amount must be borne by the patient.

Insured persons over 18 years of age have to pay 10% of the costs for aids, at least 5,00 EUR and maximum 10,00 EUR, but not more than the costs of the aid.

In the case of orthopedic shoes, an additional utility share must be paid.

### The right care aid

Nursing aids include:

- Technical aids, e.g. lifter, nursing bed, home emergency call system
- Bathing aids, e.g. shower seat, bath lift
- Positioning aids, e.g. positioning wedges
- Mobility aids, e.g. turning and transfer aids, lifters
- aids intended for consumption (see [Information sheet no. 17](#))

Nursing aids are eligible for home care and recognized need of care and can be prescribed by the family doctor or specialist. The prerequisite for receiving a care aid is the recognition of the need for care by the care insurance fund. (see [Information sheet no. 2](#)) In addition, care specialists can recommend care aids in writing, in which case a medical prescription is not necessary. The employees of the MD can also make a recommendation for a care aid in the report on the need for care. Ask the long-term care insurance fund whether an informal application is sufficient instead of a prescription.

## **Funding / Financing**

As a rule, persons in need of care over the age of 18 must pay 10% of the costs of technical care aids, up to a maximum of 25.00 euros. It is also advisable to obtain advice in advance about care aids. If the nursing care or health insurance company does not cover the costs or if a nursing care degree has not yet been recognized, technical (nursing care) aids can be borrowed for a fee from rehabilitation technology companies or medical supply stores.

**The staff of the care support center will be happy to advise you**

**Free service number: 0800 59 500 59**

**[www.pflegestuetzpunkteberlin.de](http://www.pflegestuetzpunkteberlin.de)**

The sponsors of the care support points are the state of Berlin and the care and health insurance funds in Berlin