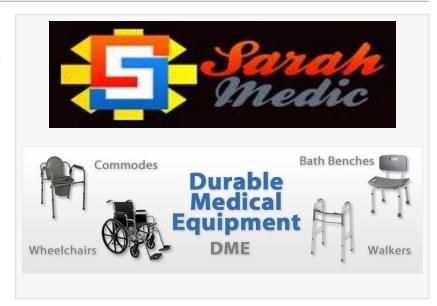


# What is Durable Medical Equipment?

Durable medical equipment, or DME, is medical equipment that can be used over and over by different patients over a relatively long period of time

JAKARTA, DKI JAKARTA, INDONESIA, November 19, 2013 / EINPresswire.com/ -- What is <u>Durable</u> <u>Medical Equipment</u>?

Durable medical equipment, or DME, is medical equipment that can be used over and over by different patients



over a relatively long period of time, and that isn't in demand by people who haven't suffered an illness or injury. Some of the most common items are for in-home use, including - but not limited to - <u>hospital beds</u>, <u>wheelchairs</u>, crutches, ventilators, lifts and oxygen tanks and supplies. Here are some of the ways that DME is used in the home for long-term care.



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Crutches are among the most commonly used medical equipment found outside of hospitals.

### **Wheelchairs**

Wheelchairs are common sights in hospitals, but for many, the need for aided mobility doesn't end when they are discharged. Wheelchairs can be motorized or mechanical, and can be used inside and outside to help those who are

fully or partially immobilized - or those who suffer pain from walking - due to accidents, illnesses or disabilities. There are wide variations in different types of wheelchairs, from basic mechanical chairs that need to be pushed by a second party or wheeled by the patient, to basic motorized wheelchairs, to elaborate electric wheelchairs that allow paralyzed patients to move themselves through advanced computerized devices.

## **Hospital Beds**

Hospital beds are considered durable medical equipment because they perform functions way

beyond the capability of a regular furniture-store bed. Security features keep the patient from falling out, while controls allow him or her to elevate or decline the upper or lower body at will. There are also devices to which IVs, monitors and other necessary devices may be fastened or attached, and many provide movable or removable tables so caretakers can have a place to put food, reading materials or other items for the patient. Like most medical supplies, hospital beds vary wildly in design, quality and price.

## Oxygen

Oxygen tanks, hoses, respirators, monitoring devices and other items are common among older patients, former smokers, people with certain cancers or emphysema, and those who suffered internal injuries, smoke inhalation or burns. Most of this equipment can be purchased or rented, and the suppliers usually charge a fee for delivering the entire package each month, or however long the exchange intervals are.

#### Crutches

Crutches may be the most commonly used pieces of durable medical equipment in the country. Common in the home, at work or outside for patients with everything from sprains to breaks to ligament tears, crutches can be used as transitional mechanisms to help people who no longer need wheelchairs but are still unable to walk, to help people with casts or braces, to alleviate pressure on one side of the body, or simply for help getting out of a chair or bed for people who are otherwise mobile.

Hospital beds play a much larger role than just allowing the patient to lay down.

Durable medical equipment is widely used in homes across the country, some for long-term, permanent care, and other times for patients who no longer need to be hospitalized, but still have some recovering to do.

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