

# Critical Thinking Skills: Ambulation

## Watch

Watch the following video:

- **Early Gait Training: Patient Observations Inside the Parallel Bars**

1. What level of assist did the patient in the video require for static standing? How much verbal cueing did the patient require for the task? Practice your documentation skills below, using professional and skilled terminology:

2. What level of assist did the patient require for ambulation? Did you notice differences in assist needed for swing versus stance phase of gait? Practice your documentation skills below, using professional and skilled terminology:

3. What assistive and supportive devices are used with the patient for ambulation?

4. As the patient transitions away from use of the parallel bars in the near future, what assistive device would you anticipate would be most beneficial for him at the present stage of recovery? Defend your answer.

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5. What are the indications for use of an ankle foot orthosis (AFO) for a patient like Henry? Comment on your observations of the AFO and how it is assisting him with ambulation.

6. Describe the ways in which the L AFO is not working to assist in Henry's recovery.

7. What are the considerations for using an AFO in a patient like Henry who has diabetes mellitus and other medical co-morbidities?

8. What does the therapist in the video do to develop a therapeutic alliance with Henry? What could she do to improve communication with him?

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9. Using your observational skills and the outline below, determine deviations in swing and stance as well as those present in both phases of gait for this patient. Hypothesize which impairments may be causing these deviations and functional limitations.

Phase of gait	Deviations noted	Possible impairments
Swing		
Stance		