



*Cambridgeshire and Peterborough  
Clinical Commissioning Group*

**NHS Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG**

**Eligibility criteria for the provision of  
wheelchairs**

**April 2019**

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## **1. Introduction**

1.1 The Wheelchair service is provided for patients who are registered with a General Practitioner within the area covered by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG. The Wheelchair Service provides equipment to meet assessed clinical needs.

1.2 The wheelchair service comprises of the following key components:

- Referral
- Assessment
- Prescription
- Purchase/Provision of Equipment
- Equipment Delivery and Provision of Training
- Repair Service
- Re-Assessment
- Equipment Hand-back/Collection Arrangements

1.3 All persons referred to the service will only be assessed for a wheelchair where the following general criteria are met:

1.3.1 The Service provides wheelchairs for Adults and Children with a long-term physical disability or illness that affects their mobility. The definition of long-term is for a period of more than six months. The definition of short-term is a period less than six months. The service is also provided to patients at End of Life when the patient has serious mobility difficulties.

1.3.2 The Service does not provide wheelchairs for Adults and Children on a short-term loan basis; the exception is for Palliative Care patients with postural needs.

1.3.3 Equipment will be provided solely as an aid to mobility. Other sources of funding should be explored where elements of the wheelchairs' features are required to meet, work education or sporting requirements.

1.4 Provision of equipment is subject to the referred individual agreeing to the current conditions of the loan.

1.5 Equipment will only be replaced if it ceases to meet the assessed clinical needs of the person or is beyond economical repair.

1.6 The client or their carer must demonstrate safe use of the equipment in the intended environment. This will be established at the point of assessment.

## **2. General Eligibility Principles**

2.1 Patients will be supplied with a wheelchair providing all the following criteria are met.

### 2.1.1 Long term provision

#### **For all new patients i.e. those not known to the wheelchair service**

- The patient has been referred to the service by their GP, Consultant, Registrar, Housing Officers, Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapist District Nurse or Health Visitor
- The patient has a diagnosed long-term condition that restricts their mobility
- The patient is unable to mobilise within their own home.

#### **Patients who are known can self-refer for review or reassessment**

2.2 All patients referred will be assessed against the criteria at each episode of care. This will be applied if the patient already has provision, is moving into the county or requests a replacement of current chair due to change in need.

2.3 Patients who have a provision currently will only be provided with a chair if they meet the criteria at the time of assessment.

2.4 Wheelchairs and equipment will be collected if Beyond Economic Repair and replaced by a new wheelchair or no longer meet clinical need.

### **3. Meeting Patient Needs**

3.1 Eligibility criteria for the provision of wheelchairs must be based on the clinical needs of the client and their ability to use the wheelchair safely. Exclusion on the grounds of age or prognoses alone is unacceptable and discriminatory.

#### 3.2 Clinical Needs

3.2.1 The Clinicians decision in terms of which wheelchair to prescribe initially rests with the assessment in terms of whether or not the Patient has the ability to self-propel. This will determine whether or not a transit wheelchair, a self-propelling wheelchair or an electric wheelchair should be prescribed.

3.2.2 Patient's needs must be considered on an individual case by case basis.

3.2.3 The seating and cushioning will be prescribed as per clinical need.

3.2.4 Accessories must be added to the wheelchair in accordance with clinical needs.

3.2.5 Special wheelchairs will be provided where patients have been diagnosed with more complex clinical needs.

3.2.6 The Clinician will consider the need to promote independence when determining the type of wheelchair to be provided. The wheelchair will aim to achieve optimum self-reliance and independence for the Patient.

3.2.7 It must be recognised that Patients needs may change and re-assessments must be conducted for patients that are likely to have a change in their condition.

### 3.3 Lifestyle

3.3.1 The Patient's environment should be considered as part of the assessment to ensure that they have the ability to move around their accommodation. The wheelchair may also facilitate the Patient's needs in terms of being able to go to work.

3.3.2 The Service will not issue special or lightweight wheelchairs for the purpose of sport.

3.3.3 Folding and rigid lightweight wheelchairs will be considered for issue where it can be demonstrated that this will enhance the patient's mobility and quality of life.

### 3.4 Ability to use wheelchair safely

3.4.1 If the Patient is unable to self-propel, the Clinician must also determine, along with the Patient and Carer, whether or not the Patient has the mental capability to be able to safely use an electric powered wheelchair. If the Patient is unable to self-propel and is unable to safely use an electric powered wheelchair, a transit wheelchair may be the most appropriate option.

3.4.2 Electric powered wheelchairs will only be issued following a full assessment to children who are unable to walk or self-propel, but are capable of independently controlling a powered wheelchair safely. The Clinician may issue an electric powered wheelchair with dual controls for children who are too young to independently cross a road but otherwise can use a powered chair.

3.4.3 In the event a transit or EPIOC wheelchair is required, the requirements of the Carer should be considered, in terms of whether or not the Carer has the ability to push the wheelchair without compromising their safety. A lightweight wheelchair may be issued or add on power device may be bought by the client in cases where this is an identified need for the Carer.

3.4.4 The wheelchair supplied must be appropriate to the Patients environment, allowing the Patient to use, or operate, the wheelchair safely in their home. This must form part of the assessment.

3.4.5 The provision of an electric powered indoor and outdoor wheelchair (EPIOC) will depend on the ability to demonstrate the benefit to the Patient. Patients eligible for the provision of an EPIOC must have:

- Adequate field and acuity of vision to be safe on public roads
- The ability to comply with the DVLC requirements for motor vehicle drivers concerning epilepsy and other causes of loss of consciousness.

#### **4. Exclusions**

4.1 The Commissioner will not fund wheelchairs in the following circumstances: *(Clinical exceptions may be considered where appropriate)*

4.1.1 Wheelchairs/buggies will not be provided as restraint or as a static chair, e.g. armchair.

4.1.2 Specialist chairs, such as for the purpose of sport, will not be funded within this Contract.

4.1.3 Pressure cushions will only be provided for use in the wheelchair.

4.1.4 Power chairs required for outdoor use only are not included.

4.1.5 The provision of mobility scooters is not included.

4.1.6 Attendant only powered chairs are not included.

4.1.7 The provision of wheelchairs to Nursing and Residential Care Homes for the purpose of portering and transit is not included within this Contract. A wheelchair will be provided to a Nursing or Residential Care home resident if the wheelchair is for the sole purpose of that patient and if the individual can self-propel, has a need for moulded seating or requires a powered chair. A care home is defined as *“Accommodation for persons who require nursing or personal care”*. CQC Aug 2013.

4.1.8 Persons who are able to walk, but for various reasons refuse to do so will not be eligible – however consideration would be given where the refusal to walk is supported by a comprehensive clinical assessment.

4.1.9 This service will not provide wheelchairs for the purpose of restraint or safety owing to a behavioural or mental condition, if the patient has the ability to mobilise within their own home.

4.1.10 Wheelchairs will not be provided as part of a programme of rehabilitation, whether in hospital or at a specialised rehabilitation centre as these should be provided by the hospital or rehabilitation centre as part of the on-going treatment process. The Service provide standard equipment to facilitate discharge, once the patient is fully stabilised and the long term clinical need is known, and the environment in which the wheelchair will be used, the Provider will conduct an assessment

4.1.11 The Services will accept referrals for children under the age of 36 months if they have postural support needs or functional wheelchair support need with cannot be accommodated in a normal commercially available buggy that a parent/carer would normally be expected to fund. Seating units will be issued after assessment, together with the child's therapist and carer.

**4.2 The Commissioner does not fund any of the following features:**

- Attendant controls or dual controls.
- Power Packs.
- E-motion assisted hand-rim systems
- Lights and indicators
- Blue Tooth technology
- Items required for transport purposes only will not be supplied
- Accessories i.e. rain covers and sunshades are not supplied by the Service, information regarding private purchase can be provided where applicable.

Clients may purchase one and have one fitted to their wheelchair following advice from the wheelchair assessment team at the clients own expense or as part of a Personal Wheelchair Budget.

**5. Assessment for a Wheelchair**

5.1 The clinical assessment for wheelchairs is conducted by the Wheelchair service provider's qualified and appropriately trained OT/specialist/assessor on an individual needs basis and will be flexible to meet the clinical needs of the Service User.

5.2 A holistic assessment considering the objectives all parties with clear agreed outcomes will include (but will not be limited to) clinical, employment, education housing and social care needs, involving appropriate members of the multidisciplinary team.

**6. Provision Arrangements**

6.1 Following assessment, the patient will have a prescription to meet clinical need and be offered the provision of a wheelchair in one of the following ways. NHS route or a Personal Wheelchair Budget(PWB), provided the patient meets the key features to offering a PWB.

6.1.1 NHS route: Wheelchair supplied as per the prescription, fully funded by the service and fully maintained and repaired by the service.

6.1.2 From April 2017, the voucher scheme is being replaced by Personal Wheelchair Budgets. The Commissioner will work with the Service in developing a Personal Wheelchair Budget 'local offer' to deliver personalised integrated care, giving more control and choice to the patient. The patient may choose which option they prefer.

#### 6.1.3 Personal Wheelchair Budgets options are:

- Notional Budget – The wheelchair supplied as per the prescription, fully funded by the service and fully maintained and repaired by the service. There is also an option allowing the patient/carer to top-up and purchase a wheelchair in line with their preferences from a limited menu of options which are additional to the assessed need. The wheelchair is owned, maintained and repaired by the service and will be purchased by the service.
- Third Party - for the amount of the prescribed wheelchair plus contribution towards repair and maintenance, allowing the patient/carer to top-up and purchase a wheelchair in line with their preferences which are additional to the assessed need. The wheelchair is owned, maintained and repaired by the patient. The wheelchair will be purchased by the patient/carer. The service will sign-post the patient to reputable wheelchair suppliers.
- Direct Payment – not currently available for Personal Wheelchair Budgets.

6.1.4 Members of the multidisciplinary team may agree to fund additional features through the Personal Wheelchair Budgets above.

6.2 Where a client has a privately purchased wheelchair (or purchased via a voucher) the service will provide accessories and seating systems if there is a clear health need (such as pressure cushions / postural need). However, this will require an assessment by a Wheelchair Service Therapist to establish the clinical need, safety and compatibility. Modifications affecting a manufacturer's warranty will not be considered for privately purchased equipment.

6.3 As the law (Road Traffic Act 1988) currently states that a powered wheelchair weighing over 150Kg cannot be used on a public footpath the service is unable to supply any chair which by itself or with accessories would exceed this weight limit .For more information please go to ; <http://assets.dft.gov.uk/publications/mobility-scooters-road-guidance/mobility-guidance.pdf>

## 7. Product Range

7.1 Supplied based on clinically assessed need and prescription:

- Standard Non-Powered Wheelchair (Attendant pushed/self-propelled)
- Active manual wheelchair (quickie style)
- Non-Powered Specialist Buggy
- Tilt in space wheelchair (manual/electrical)
- Electrically Powered Indoor Wheelchair (EPIC)
- Electrically Powered Indoor/Outdoor Wheelchair (EPIOC)
- Bariatric Wheelchairs
- Postural Seating



- Pressure Relief Cushions

7.2 Wheelchair accessories are supplied where there is an assessed and identified clinical/postural need as follows:

- Trays
- Head Supports
- Specialist Arm Supports
- Elevating Leg Rest Supports (ELR's)
- Harnesses will be supplied for clinical/postural need but not for transportation in a vehicle
- Lap Straps will be supplied for safety purposes but not for transportation in a vehicle
- Positioning Belts
- Footboards/Calf Pads will be supplied where there is a positioning and safe transit need
- Ankle Huggers and Foot Straps will be supplied where there is a positioning and safe transit need and where a suitable pelvic positioning belt is fitted.

7.3 Only one wheelchair will be funded per person, except where an electric powered wheelchair is issued, in this instance a back-up manual wheelchair will be funded for emergency use, as long as it is considered suitable. Two electric chairs will not be funded.

7.4 In determining the appropriate equipment to meet an individual patient's needs the table below should be used in conjunction with the previous explanations and exclusions. The principal is to fund the level of equipment needed and not above this just because it is desired.

7.5 4 It is recognised that evolving technologies may at times warrant some flexibility in the application of this policy and these will be considered on a case by case basis. Particular consideration will be given where provision of equipment would create efficiencies in other parts of the service.

7.6 Where appropriate, patients will be offered advice about other ways to obtain a wheelchair for short term loan or other equipment that may meet mobility needs, such as a glide commode for use within the home.

## **8. Review of Eligibility Criteria**

These criteria will be reviewed by the commissioner and the service provider at least annually.

## **9. Complaints against the eligibility criteria Eligibility Criteria process**

9.1 If an individual is considered to be outside of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG eligibility criteria after initial screening, first assessment and second opinion assessment by the clinician they will be informed in

writing by the provider using a standard letter. This letter will signpost them to other sources of wheelchairs and funding and inform them how to complain regarding eligibility.

9.2 Appeals will be dealt with by the Commissioner.

<https://www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughccg.nhs.uk/health-professionals/clinical-policies-and-thresholds/appeals/>

9.3 Applications for Exceptional cases should go the Commissioner

Telephone: 01733 84371

E-mail address: [cpccge-ifr@nhs.net](mailto:cpccge-ifr@nhs.net)

Postal Address: Exceptional Cases Team, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG, Peterborough City Care Centre, Thorpe Road, Peterborough, PE3 6DB

The complainant or representative will have the result of the complaint sent to them within a specified time frame in writing by the CCG

<b>Type of Wheelchair</b>	<b>Definition of the Chair Group</b>	<b>Usual Criteria for funding</b>
Attendant Manual Wheelchair	A standard chair that requires an attendant to push the chair. Small wheels at the back prevent the user being able to propel the chair. These chairs are foldable for transportation.	The person is unable to self-propel. The person has a Carer, who is medically fit and able to push and control the wheelchair safely.
Self - Propelled Manual Wheelchair	A standard chair with large rear wheels allowing the user to propel themselves or have an attendant assist them. These chairs are foldable for transportation	The person must be deemed medically fit to self-propel and this should not be detrimental to their medical condition. The person has ability and will use a self-propelling wheelchair to allow a degree of indoor / outdoor mobility, which will increase independence and function. In exceptional circumstances, may be funded for carers who would benefit from the improved, manoeuvrability gained by large rear wheels.
Active Manual Wheelchair (quickie style)	Originally designed for sport, active user chairs are more flexible than the standard chairs and can be adjusted to meet the individual requirements of users so that he/she can achieve the maximum amount of mobility. They have quick release wheels, multiple axle positions and frames that are available in a wide variety of sizes.	The criteria for a self-propelling wheelchair must be met. The person is dependent on wheelchair mobility equipment indoors and outdoors for the majority of the day.  The individuals medical condition results in a reduced strength and / or major excessive activity would result in deterioration of your medical condition.  The individual meets the above criteria and their life style needs and ability must be such that maximum independence and mobility will be gained by such provision.

<b>Type of Wheelchair</b>	<b>Definition of the Chair Group</b>	<b>Usual Criteria for funding</b>
Buggy	A buggy is a type of pushchair allowing a person (generally a child) clinically appropriate seating and mobility beyond that, which can be provided through generally available pushchairs	Buggies may be funded as an alternative to a wheelchair, where it best meets the clinical and mobility need, usually issued to children.
Tilt in Space Wheelchair (Manual)	A tilt in space chair is one with a mechanism that allows for the whole seat system to be tilted, rather than just the back rest reclined, thus aiding a change in position for pressure relief while maintaining postural support.	<p>These wheelchairs are funded where the tilt facility is the only way of maintaining sitting balance/posture within a chair, in combination with managing the requirements of the client's physical needs.</p> <p>The individual is fully dependent on the provision of a chair for postural support, positioning and comfort. Pressure care will be considered in all wheelchairs.</p> <p>Carers can demonstrate that they are able to operate the system safely, access transport and detach component parts for safety and comfort of the client.</p> <p><i>These chairs will not be funded solely to overcome moving, handling and hoisting issues.</i></p>
Electrically Powered Indoor Wheelchair (EPIC)	A wheelchair with electric motors controlled by the user for use indoors, they have a small turning circle and limited range	The individual is permanently unable to walk or self propel indoors or it would be detrimental to their medical condition or a significant risk of injury to do so. Where individuals have a deteriorating condition an electric chair may be considered appropriate prior to the level of disability indicated above. Through frequent and regular use the individual has the potential to benefit from the wheelchair gaining increased mobility and independence.

<p>Electric Powered Indoor / Outdoor Chair (EPIOC)</p>	<p>A wheelchair with electric motors controlled by the user for indoor and outdoor use.</p>	<p>These wheelchairs will be considered when other possibilities have been excluded and the Criteria for EPIC provision are met and the user will need to use the powered wheelchair constantly, indoors and outdoors. This will depend on the individual's needs and their capabilities.</p> <p>Clinical need and the environment at home will be assessed by the Wheelchair Service. The home should be accessible i.e. ramps or level access from indoors to outdoors. Where these are not present, but could be installed relevant referrals can be made to appropriate services for adaptations to be carried out, prior to a chair being issued.</p> <p><i>The user must comply with the DVLA requirements for motor vehicle drivers concerning Epilepsy and other causes of loss of consciousness.</i></p>
<p>Electrically Powered Attendant Controlled Outdoor Chair</p>	<p>A wheelchair with electric motors that are controlled by an attendant instead of the user.</p>	<p>In addition to the main criteria relating to having a condition that permanently seriously affects an individual's ability to walk, the individual must have clinical needs in relation to posture etc, which means that a scooter cannot be used. The need to use the chair daily must be demonstrated.</p> <p>This will only be funded where the individual's weight exceeds the attendant's weight by a significant amount, making the attendant unable to push the person.</p> <p><b>Or</b> the attendant is disabled and cannot push the person</p> <p><b>And</b> they are going to use the chair outside on a frequent basis to undertake core activities of daily living.</p>

<p>Cushions, Accessories And Modifications associated with Wheelchair provision.</p>		<p>Cushions, accessories and modifications will be funded as appropriate following assessment for clinical need.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cushions are funded to achieve comfort, satisfactory posture, and increased stability and to aid pressure ulcer prevention and management. Cushions will be considered for private chairs relating to an individual's case.</li><li>• Where there is a need to support the management of acute pressure sores the Wheelchair Service will liaise with the Community Nursing Service or the Tissue Viability Service.</li></ul>
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