

## Criteria for Provision of Wheelchairs (North East London)

Taken from Service Specification Feb 2019

### Occasional Loans

Occasional loans of wheelchairs are up to three consecutive days and can be a self-referral, or by GP, Consultant, District Nurse, Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapist or Fracture Clinic.

### Short Term Loans

Short term loans are usually required for less than 6 months and will be available for exceptional circumstances i.e. to aid discharge or to support end stages of life

### Permanent Use

The patient must have a permanent disability which seriously impairs their ability to walk, or a medical condition which could adversely affect the patient's health or lead to deterioration through walking.

The patient requires the wheelchair for regular use i.e. at least three times a week.

In all circumstances the patient must agree to adhere to terms and conditions of use of the wheelchair. The Provider shall obtain consent and approval of the Commissioner for their proposed terms and conditions of use for the supply of equipment

### Buggies

- Buggies will not be provided to children that do not have a requirement for postural support and that are a size and age whereby a standard high street buggy would meet their needs.
- Children of a size and age whereby they would no longer be suited to a standard high street buggy but whose mobility has not developed to a level that would be expected for their age would be eligible for provision through the wheelchair service.
- Double buggies will only be provided to families with two disabled children meeting the eligibility criteria as outlined above. In this instance, a voucher/Personal Wheelchair Budget may be appropriate.
- Children who require postural support but are within the age range for a buggy

### Standard Attendant Propelled Wheelchairs

- The patient has a carer or relative who is medically fit and able to take responsibility for pushing the wheelchair

### Standard Self-Propelled Wheelchair

- The patient must be deemed to be medically fit to self-propel and not be suffering from a condition where the exertion of self-propelling could be detrimental to their health
- The patient demonstrates a satisfactory level of safety awareness for self and others within the environment in which the wheelchair will be used
- The patient has been assessed by a Wheelchair therapist as functionally capable of propelling the wheelchair for the necessary distance and be able to operate and manoeuvre the wheelchair safely, including use of the brakes and footrests.

### Active manual wheelchair

- The patient must be a full time user and their lifestyle needs and ability must be such that maximum independence and mobility will be gained by such provision
- The patient must be a full time user and provision of a less active user wheelchair would slowly limit their functional ability and independence and mobility
- This type of wheel chair would be considered if clinical needs cannot be met by the standard or lightweight range of wheelchairs

### Light-Weight Wheelchair

- The patient has a medical condition and level of disability, for which the supply of self-propelling wheelchairs from the standard range is deemed to be unsuitable for their mobility needs
- The patient is an active and independent wheelchair user with an assessed potential to develop advanced wheelchair handling skills, such as, back wheel balancing and pushing long distances outdoors
- The patient must be a full time user and their life style needs and ability must be such that maximum independence and mobility will be gained by such provision

### Tilt in Space Wheelchairs

- The patient has significant postural management requirements such as poor head and trunk control, high levels of fatigue, pain and discomfort and requires pressure relief, which cannot be met in any other wheelchair.
- Carers are able to operate the system safely, access transport and detach component parts for safety and comfort of the client
- Clients are fully dependent on the provision of a wheelchair for mobility, postural support, positioning and comfort. Tilt in space wheelchairs will not be supplied to be used as an armchair

### Electrically Powered Indoor Wheelchair (EPIC)

- The patient must be unable to walk or self-propel a manual wheelchair effectively within their home; or have a medical condition that contra-indicates self-propelling, or that poses a significant risk of injury
- The patient must be permanently unable to walk within the home environment
- Through frequent and regular use, the patient has the potential to benefit from the wheelchair, gaining increased mobility and independence
- The patient must have a home environment that is suitable for powered mobility as assessed by the wheelchair service. This means that the client should be able to access his/her property independently and safely without aid. Ramps/thresholds/doorways should be assessed by the Provider to ensure that the property is safe for use of the indoor powered chair. The Provider shall make referrals to the appropriate agencies if the property requires adaptations
- The patient must have no major visual field deficits or angle of visual field less than 90 degrees. (A case can be made for clients with a visual impairment who can demonstrate safe use within a protected environment).
- The patient must have no major neglect or inattention as well as no major perceptual, cognitive or spatial awareness problems
- The client has the ability to comply with the DVLA requirements for motor vehicle drivers concerning epilepsy and other causes of loss of consciousness

### Indoor / Outdoor Powered Wheelchairs

- For medical reason, are severely and permanently restricted in mobility
- Are unable to walk and need full time use of a wheelchair both indoors and outdoors
- Are unable to self-propel a wheelchair sufficiently to allow independent function indoors and outdoors.
- Have no problems with visual, cognitive, visual spatial or other higher cortical functions or other medical conditions, which would make them a danger to themselves, pedestrians or other road user
- Can comply with the DVLA requirements for motor vehicle drivers concerning epilepsy and other causes or loss of consciousness
- Have visual acuity of at least 6/24 and have a field vision of 120 in horizontal plane and 20 above and below this plane.
- Have demonstrated by a driving test on a specified indoor and outdoor route that they have the insight, intellectual capacity and dexterity to independently operate an EPIOC both safely and responsibly

- Have a residential environment which is compatible with the use of an EPIOC, and which includes a storage area with a power supply for a battery charger
- Have a local outside environment which is accessible by an EPIOC and compatible with its use
- Are able to ensure that an EPIOC will be maintained adequately either personally or by a carer
- Will derive significant improvement in their independence and quality of life through use of an EPIOC.