

NEL Eligibility Criteria Guidelines

Based on NEL service specification [01/04/2018]. Full eligibility criteria are detailed at the end of this guidance.

General guidelines:

- Users registered with a GP within Barking and Dagenham, Havering or Redbridge
- Has a long term mobility need (>6m)
- Unable to functionally mobilise indoors without a wheelchair (note exception for “occasional” users below)
- Full time wheelchair users
 - ie a wheelchair is required to fill all mobility needs
- “Occasional” wheelchair users
 - Long term need for a wheelchair (>6m)
 - Wheelchair is required for >4 days/week

Power chair provision:

- Unable to functionally mobilise indoors with a standard self-propelling wheelchair
- Does not have medication or medical conditions which would contraindicate power chair provision
- Indoor environment is suitable for power chair provision
- Is able to pass appropriate power chair driving assessment(s)

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

- Terminal/end of life (ie <6 months to live, has a DS1500 or equivalent form)
- To support discharge where CES equipment is not available and the person cannot be discharged home in any other way (ie via stretcher ambulance) – **referrer should be directed to CES in the first instance**

Multiple wheelchairs:

- Power chair users will automatically be offered a basic manual chair as back- up in case of breakdown
- Two manual chairs may be provided where this is required, for example, due to environmental constraints, which cannot be overcome (such as stairs in the house)
- Accessories (cushions, backrests, specialist seating, etc) is expected to be transferred between wheelchairs where appropriate – **duplicate equipment is not provided**

Modification and provision to privately purchased equipment (including equipment via an independent PBW):

- Alterations and provision of accessories will be provided if there is a clear health need (such as tissue viability issues / postural need), and this will not impact on the manufacturer’s warranty

Exclusion criteria:

- Wheelchairs / buggies will not be provided as a restraint or as a stationary chair e.g. armchair
- Equipment will only be replaced if it ceases to meet the clinical or life style needs, if it is beyond economical repair or if it is obsolete, so that spares are not available.
- **Wheelchair Service will not take responsibility for replacing wheelchairs due to abuse / violence / neglect.**
- Provision of attendant pushed wheelchairs for general use within care home settings by a number of individuals.
- Wheelchairs for 'portering' purposes i.e. transferring residents from room to room etc. within care home settings.
- Equipment to specifically meet work or education needs will require joint working with other organisations
- Specialist sporting equipment
- Pressure cushions will only be provided by the Wheelchair Service for use in the wheelchair, and pressure mapping will only be carried out in relation to wheelchair seating
- Mobility scooters, accessories not related to health / mobility needs, such as i-Portal mountings and mountings for communication aids will not be provided by the service.

Equipment that may be provided under exceptional circumstances includes:

- Powered chairs with a capacity of more than 4mph
- Additional special seating systems (i.e. more than one)
- Rain covers, sunshades, trays or comfort items, unless there is an identified health / postural need established through a clinical assessment
- Mountings for oxygen cylinders, suction machines etc.
- Lights on powered chairs
- Power-assist devices (such as E-Motion wheels and E-Fix)

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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.