

## **Dorset Wheelchair Service Item Specific Criteria for Supply.**

### **STANDARD MANUAL WHEELCHAIRS**

A standard manual wheelchair may be supplied to people who have a permanent impairment or medical condition, which lasts more than six months and seriously impairs their physical ability to walk, or for those who are terminally ill.

Dorset Wheelchair Service will assess the needs of each individual referral.

1. There are two types of standard chairs that the Service is able to supply.
  - a. self-propelled – large rear wheels
  - b. attendant pushed (transit) – small rear wheels

Attendant push wheelchairs are designed to aid mobility and are not suitable for long periods of static seating. All requests for this type of wheelchair will be assessed by Dorset Wheelchair Service to meet an individuals needs.

Note; Both chairs have a canvas seat and back and fold to go into a car.

2. The service will provide a standard manual self-propelling wheelchair to residents in a nursing and residential home if they fulfil the above criteria and can demonstrate that it will enable them to be independently mobile.
3. The service will supply transit wheelchairs only to clients who live at home and have a significant indoor and/or outdoor mobility need and a carer to assist propulsion.
4. The service does not supply standard transit wheelchairs for residents in nursing or residential homes.
5. Standard transit chairs are to be returned when a client is admitted to a residential or nursing home.

6. Attendant push wheelchairs will be issued to clients as a backup to an Electrically Powered Indoor Chair (EPIC) issue.
  
7. Attendant push wheelchairs will be issued following assessment for special seating and/or inserts.

## **LIGHTWEIGHT WHEELCHAIRS**

Lightweight and high performance wheelchair will be considered on an individual basis for clients who are full time users and whose lifestyle would indicate real benefit. Assessment by Dorset Wheelchair Service will be necessary and supply would be made from a specific range to fulfil the users clinical and lifestyle needs.

1. When it is required for full time use or the user has a recognised deteriorating medical condition, which may lead them to becoming a full time user.
2. When the full time user is unable to maintain independent mobility in a standard wheelchair and can demonstrate an increase in their level of independence through this provision.
3. When the full time user will not be adversely affected medically by self-propelling a lightweight wheelchair.

Note; An upgrade to a lightweight wheelchair above the prescribed need is possible by using the Voucher Scheme.

## **ELECTRICALLY POWERED INDOOR CHAIR (EPIC)**

An EPIC will be considered where a client has a long term need for powered mobility, using the chair on a daily basis in order to increase mobility and independence around their immediate home environment, leading to an improved quality of life.

1. The client is unable to walk and unable to self propel and manual wheelchair effectively in their home environment.
2. The client must demonstrate their potential ability to use an EPIC safely and independently within their property, (based on an agreed assessment procedure).
3. The client must have a suitable home environment.
  - a. Have adequate space for the movement of the wheelchair including footplates within their home.
  - b. Have a suitable space, with a power supply for charging the batteries overnight.
4. The client must be able to charge the EPIC as recommended, or have support to do so.
5. Dorset Wheelchair Service will not supply an indoor powered wheelchair if the sole or primary need is for use within a school/college or day centre. Any referrals should be forwarded to education or an appropriate charity.
6. The chair will remain on loan subject to regular review on the understanding that the client continues to meet the above criteria. If the client subsequently fails to meet any one of these criteria, the wheelchair will be withdrawn.
7. On provision of a powered chair a standard manual transit wheelchair will be provided as a back up, but not if the client is resident in a residential or nursing home.
8. Functional need for extended push handles will be considered.

## **ELECTRICALLY POWERED INDOOR / OUTDOOR CHAIR (EPIOC)**

To be considered for an EPIOC the client must initially meet the EPIC criteria (see page 4) and on proceeding to an EPIOC the client will derive significant benefit from independent use of a powered chair within both their indoor and outdoor environments.

### **The Client must**

1. Be unable to walk and unable to propel and manual wheelchair indoors and outdoors.
2. Have a permanent need for an indoor / outdoor powered wheelchair.
3. Through frequent and regular use have the potential to benefit from the chair gaining increased mobility and independence to improved quality of life.
4. Be medically fit to independently control a powered wheelchair indoors and outdoors.
  - a. Free from conditions causing loss of consciousness and epileptic seizures in waking hours within the past year in line with DVLA requirements for motor vehicle drivers.
  - b. Have a visual acuity of at least 6/60 (can read a number plate at 27 feet).
  - c. Free from any combination of medical conditions and treatments likely to make independent powered wheelchair control unsafe for themselves, pedestrians or other road users.
  - d. The assessors may, with the consent of the user, seek further medical advice about individual users from their GP or consultant.
5. Have demonstrated in a driving test and by other means that they have the insight, perceptual, visual and cognitive skills and dexterity to operate an indoor / outdoor powered wheelchair safely and responsibly on their own and without assistance; users should also demonstrate the capacity to compensate for their sensory or physical impairment.
6. Have a suitable environment.

- a. Have adequate space for movement of wheelchair including footplates within the home.
  - b. Have a suitable area for storage of the wheelchair with in a power supply for charging the batteries.
  - c. Have safe and easy access to the outdoors.
  - d. Have a local outside environment that is suitable for a powered wheelchair.
  
7. The chair will remain on loan subject to regular competency review on the understanding that the client continues to meet the above criteria. If, following review and full risk assessment the client subsequently fails to meet any one of these criteria, the wheelchair service retain the right to limit the speed of the EPIOC for safe use outside, or with draw it from use by the individual.
  
8. Functional need for extended push handles will be considered.

## **PROVISION OF SPECIALIST BUGGIES**

A buggy may be supplied to a child who has a permanent impairment or medical condition, which lasts more than six months and seriously impairs their physical ability to walk or is terminally ill.

1. It meets the child's clinical need.
2. Specialist buggies will only be assessed for children less than 3 years of age if there is a specific need for postural support.
3. That it is an age appropriate.

## POSTURAL SEATING

The client should be eligible for a wheelchair for mobility purposes through Dorset Wheelchair Service, and this should be the PRIMARY reason for referral (i.e special seating for use within the wheelchair), not special seating to replace an armchair need, or purely to provide school seating or a transport system.

1. The client should use their wheelchair daily for essential mobility and therefore be able to benefit from the positioning / postural control that the special seating gives, in contrast to that provided by a standard wheelchair.
2. The client should be 'seatable' with appropriate equipment (using Chailey levels of sitting).
3. Where a client has a privately purchased wheelchair Dorset Wheelchair Service still has a responsibility to provide a seating system to meet the clinical need of the user providing the chair and seating are compatible and safe. Suitable interfaces will be provided
  - a. The client must meet the criteria for a wheelchair as supplied by Dorset Wheelchair Service.
  - b. The client should be referred to the Dorset Wheelchair Service for a full assessment. This assessment will include the privately purchased wheelchair to ensure that it meets the clinical needs of the user prior to special seating being approved. The chair and seating should be compatible.
  - c. The client is expected to maintain their wheelchair in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
4. The client should return any unused, unsuitable or unserviceable seating before another one can be issued.
5. Dorset Wheelchair Service will maintain any seating and interface system they supply.
6. Tilt in space wheelchairs will be provided where there is a clinical need for variable positioning.

**Note;** Vouchers are not issued for seating systems.

## SUPPLY OF CUSHIONS

Pressure relieving, standard comfort and back cushions are supplied in accordance with the assessment of clinical need. Assessment for pressure relieving cushions incorporates the use of a recognised pressure assessment tool and score as a guideline and takes into consideration the overall management of a client's pressure relief. The client must meet the criteria for a wheelchair as supplied by Dorset Wheelchair Service.

1. Standard comfort cushions – for use if the client is using the wheelchair for more than three hours at a time, or if, a clinical need is identified by an accredited professional or wheelchair therapist.
2. Pressure relieving cushions – will be supplied to the client where there is an identified risk for use within the wheelchair.
  - a. Pressure relieving cushions are not supplied by the Wheelchair Service to people who are in hospital. These cushions are available on discharge, providing the hospital accredited professional assesses and makes a recommendation from Dorset Wheelchair Service range of cushions.
  - b. Pressure relieving cushions are not generally supplied to residents of nursing homes. Provision of these cushions would be considered to be part of nursing care. A client would be eligible if they demonstrate independent mobility using a self-propelling or powered wheelchair for essential mobility reasons.
3. Positioning cushions for postural support (eg wedges, lumbar supports, crescents) will be supplied to users where there is an identified clinical need.

**Note;** Alternating air pressure cushions (dynamic pressure cushions) are not supplied by Dorset Wheelchair Service.

## **TILT-IN-SPACE WHEELCHAIRS**

A tilt-in-space wheelchair will be considered where the client is unable to sit in a standard reclining wheelchair and are unable to change position within the chair. The tilt-in-space wheelchair is required for full time mobility purposes to include a significant outdoor element.

Hospitals or Rehabilitation units are expected to supply their own tilt-in-space wheelchair to be used during rehabilitation.

Any environmental constraints will be considered when prescribing this type of wheelchair.

1. The client is unable to change their position.
2. The client will spend more than 4 hours per day in the wheelchair.
3. The client has significant postural needs, which cannot be met in any other wheelchair.
4. The client will gain significant improvements in their posture and mobility from the provision of a tilt-in-space wheelchair.
5. The client has a suitable home environment.

**Note;** Assessment for this type of wheelchair will only be considered when the rehabilitation process is complete.

## **POWERED TILT-IN-SPACE WHEELCHAIRS**

In addition to the general criteria for tilt-in-space:-

1. The client will be a full time wheelchair user – either EPIC or EPIOC
2. The client is hoisted for transfers
3. The client lives alone or whose carer has difficulties hoisting client
4. The client is dependant on home carers and needs to be in wheelchair between carer visits to carry out essential activities
5. The client has an active lifestyle
6. The client needs to spend long periods of time in wheelchair (all day)
7. The client has a significant need for postural control
8. The client has a need for pressure relief.

## ACCESSORIES

Wheelchair accessories are supplied in accordance with the Dorset Wheelchair Service therapist's assessment of clinical need.

1. **Trays** – these will only be supplied as part of the seating system for postural needs.
2. **Headrests** – will be supplied as part of a seating system for postural control and not for transportation.
3. **Bexhill Arm Supports** - will be supplied where there is a postural need.
4. **Elevating Leg Rest Supports (ELRS)** – will be supplied if there is a clinical need to keep elevated during mobilisation.
5. **Harnesses** - will be supplied for clinical/postural need and not for transportation.
6. **Lap Straps** - are available on request for safety in transit but not for transportation in a vehicle.
7. **Positional Belts** - will be supplied where there is a clinical/postural need.
8. **Padded Arm Rest Covers** - will be supplied where there is a risk of pressure to elbows and/or to assist with positioning needs.
9. **Footboards/ Calf pads** - will be supplied where there is a positioning and safe transit need.
10. **Anklehuggers / Footstraps** – will be supplied where there is a positioning and safe transit need and where a suitable pelvic positioning belt is fitted.

**Note;** Rain covers/Sunshades – these are not supplied by Dorset Wheelchair Service.

**Lap straps, harnesses and head supports are not supplied for transport use** - it is recommended that they transfer to a static seat within the transport.

**Lap straps and harnesses** are fitted and adjusted as per manufacturers guidelines and following instructions from Dorset Wheelchair Service.