

# MEDICAL POLICY

MEDICAL POLICY DETAILS	
Medical Policy Title	Wheelchairs and Power Operated Vehicles (POVs)
Policy Number	1.01.16
Category	Contract Clarification
Original Effective Date	07/02/99
Committee Approval Date	04/19/00, 07/19/01, 11/29/01, 02/27/03, 03/25/04, 04/28/05, 04/27/06, 04/26/07, 06/26/08, 02/26/09, 06/24/10, 06/24/11, 06/28/12, 08/22/13, 08/28/14, 06/25/15, 06/22/16, 06/22/17, 06/28/18, 06/27/19, 06/25/20, 06/24/21, 06/16/22, 07/20/23, 08/22/24
Current Effective Date	08/22/24
Archived Date	08/22/24
Archive Review Date	N/A
Product Disclaimer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Services are contract dependent; if a product excludes coverage for a service, it is not covered, and medical policy criteria do not apply.</li> <li>• If a commercial product (including an Essential Plan or Child Health Plus product), medical policy criteria apply to the benefit.</li> <li>• If a Medicaid product covers a specific service, and there are no New York State Medicaid guidelines (eMedNY) criteria, medical policy criteria apply to the benefit.</li> <li>• If a Medicare product (including Medicare HMO-Dual Special Needs Program (DSNP) product) covers a specific service, and there is no national or local Medicare coverage decision for the service, medical policy criteria apply to the benefit.</li> <li>• If a Medicare HMO-Dual Special Needs Program (DSNP) product DOES NOT cover a specific service, please refer to the Medicaid Product coverage line.</li> </ul>

## POLICY STATEMENT

- I. Based upon our criteria and assessment of the peer-reviewed literature, wheelchairs are considered **medically appropriate and eligible for coverage** when used by the patient for mobility in the performance of activities of daily living in his/her residence. (See Policy Guideline VII, Wheelchair Features and Coverage Criteria, for additional criteria for non-standard wheelchairs and mobility devices.)
- II. Based upon our criteria and assessment of the peer-reviewed literature, power operated vehicles (POV's) are considered **medically appropriate and eligible for coverage** when a patient meets coverage criteria for a wheelchair, is unable to self-propel a manual wheelchair, and is cognitively and physically able to operate a POV.
- III. Based upon our criteria and assessment of the peer-reviewed literature, wheelchairs are considered **not medically necessary** in **ANY** of the following circumstances:
  - A. When used primarily for comfort, assistance, or convenience;
  - B. When used primarily for transportation outside the home, except for dependent children who require a wheelchair to attend school;
  - C. When used for sports or recreational purposes.
- IV. Based upon our criteria and assessment of the peer-reviewed literature, wheelchairs with stair climbing ability (e.g., iBOT) are considered **not medically necessary**.
- V. If an upgrade in equipment is requested, the patient's functional status (diagnosis, prognosis and severity of condition) must be reviewed, as part of the justification for medical necessity as described below. (See Policy Guideline VII, Wheelchair Features and Coverage Criteria, for additional criteria for non-standard wheelchairs and mobility devices).
- VI. Replacement of wheelchairs may be covered when: the cost of the repair is in excess of the replacement cost; other

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extenuating medical circumstances occur that require special consideration; or the current wheelchair no longer can meet the patient’s needs.

*Refer to Corporate Medical Policy #1.01.00 Durable Medical Equipment- Standard and Non-Standard*

*Refer to Corporate Medical Policy #1.01.46 Standing Devices*

**POLICY GUIDELINES**

**I. Supporting Documentation Required**

Coverage of wheelchairs and accessories/special features requires **documentation of medical necessity** by the patient’s practitioner. Documentation must be submitted for review and must include the patient’s diagnosis, a narrative description with functional criteria for the wheelchair and any requested *non-standard* features. At a minimum, such documentation must include:

- A. Diagnosis, prognosis and severity of condition;
- B. Seating and mobility evaluation by a trained professional familiar with seating, positioning and wheeled mobility options taking into account the current functional abilities and disabilities of the patient as well as potential long term needs. The Health Plan reserves the right to require an assessment for a requested mobility device to be performed on the patient by an independent rehabilitation specialist, therapist, or equipment specialist;
- C. Assessment of the home environment for wheelchair accessibility and the ability to accommodate any special equipment, positioning devices or motorized component (e.g., door frame size) if requested;
- D. If a motorized wheelchair is requested an explanation as to why a standard wheelchair is inadequate for the particular activity of daily living; and
- E. Relevant medical records.

II. Coverage will be provided for one manual wheelchair, one motorized wheelchair, or one scooter. More than one mobility device is considered a matter of convenience for the member and his/her family. No coverage for a back-up wheelchair will be provided except that a one-month rental will be covered if the owned wheelchair is being repaired.

III. A wheelchair must be appropriate for the patient’s disability, size, weight, activity, and for the home environment.

IV. For persons residing at a residential facility and receiving custodial care services (custodial care status), wheelchairs are **eligible for coverage** when criteria are met.

V. For persons temporarily residing in a residential facility and receiving skilled services (skilled status), coverage of wheelchairs is considered global to the skilled nursing facility (SNF) reimbursement.

VI. Replacement of wheelchairs may be covered when: the cost of the repair is in excess of the replacement cost; other extenuating medical circumstances occur that require special consideration; or the current wheelchair no longer can meet the patient’s needs.

**VII. Wheelchair Features and Coverage Criteria**

The following is a list of characteristics and additional coverage criteria for various models of wheelchairs.

<b><u>Model/Description</u></b>	<b><u>Coverage Criteria</u></b>	<b><u>Non-Coverage Criteria</u></b>
<b>Standard -Manual</b> Wt: greater than 36 lbs Seat width: 16-18” Seat depth: 16” Seat height: equal or greater than 19” or equal or less than 21” Back height: 16-17” Arm style: fixed or detachable	1. Patient has impaired mobility in performance of mobility-related activities of daily living (MRADL’s) in the home which would be alleviated by the mobility device; <b>AND</b> 2. Patient is able to self- propel a wheelchair; <b>AND</b> 3. Patient’s mobility limitation cannot be resolved by use of an	1. Used solely for social, recreational or employment activities.

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<u>Model/Description</u>	<u>Coverage Criteria</u>	<u>Non-Coverage Criteria</u>
	<p>appropriately fitted assistive device (e.g., cane or walker); <b>OR</b></p> <p>4. Patient has a medical condition for which weight-bearing or ambulation is contraindicated; <b>OR</b></p> <p>5. Patient has a disease process or injury that precludes use of the lower extremities.</p>	
<p><b>Hemi - Manual</b>                      Wt: greater than 36 lbs                      Seat width: 16-18”                      Seat depth: 16”                      Seat height: 17-18”                      Back height: 16-17”                      Arm style: fixed or detachable                      Enables short in stature patient to place feet on ground for propulsion.</p>	<p>1. Patient meets criteria for a standard manual wheelchair; <b>AND</b></p> <p>2. Is unable to propel a manual wheelchair with upper extremities; <b>OR</b></p> <p>3. Has paralysis in one arm and/or leg and is able to self-propel a manual wheelchair.</p>	<p>1. Used solely for social, recreational or employment activities.</p>
<p><b>Lightweight - Manual</b>                      Wt: equal or less than to 36 lbs                      Seat width: 16-18”                      Seat depth: 16”                      Seat height: equal or greater than 17” or equal or less than 21”                      Back height: 16-17”                      Arm style: fixed or detachable</p>	<p>1. Patient meets criteria for a standard manual wheelchair; <b>AND</b></p> <p>2. Is unable to self-propel a standard manual wheelchair.</p>	<p>1. Used solely for social, recreational or employment activities.</p>
<p><b>Ultra lightweight - Manual</b>                      Wt: less than 34 lbs                      Seat width: 14 - 18”                      Seat depth: 14 - 16”                      Seat height: equal or greater than 17” or equal or less than 21”                      Back height: 15-19”                      Arm style: fixed or detachable</p>	<p>1. Patient meets criteria for a standard manual wheelchair; <b>AND</b></p> <p>2. Is unable to self-propel in standard or lightweight manual wheelchair.</p>	<p>1. Used solely for social, recreational or employment activities.</p> <p>2. Titanium frame has marginal weight advantage over aluminum frame; considered <b>not medically necessary</b>.</p>
<p><b>Full or semi-reclining- Manual</b>                      Wt: less than 30 lbs                      Seat width: 14-18”                      Seat depth: 14 - 16”                      Seat height: equal or greater than 17” or equal or less than 21”                      Back height: varies                      Arm style: fixed or detachable</p>	<p>1. Patient meets criteria for a standard manual wheelchair except may not be able to self-propel manual wheelchair; <b>AND</b></p> <p>2. Patient is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Is quadriplegic/tetraplegic; <b>OR</b></li> <li>b. has trunk or lower extremity cast; <b>OR</b></li> <li>c. has braces that require special positioning; <b>OR</b></li> <li>d. has fixed hip angle; <b>OR</b></li> <li>e. has excess extensor tone of the trunk muscles; <b>OR</b></li> <li>f. has prior history of skin breakdown.</li> </ul>	<p>1. Used solely for social, recreational or employment activities.</p> <p>2. Used for prophylaxis of sacral decubiti without a prior history of skin breakdown.</p>
<p><b>Tilt in space - Manual</b>                      Lightweight wheelchairs</p>	<p>1. Patient meets criteria for a standard manual wheelchair except may not</p>	<p>1. Patient has bladder-emptying problems or wears a leg bag</p>

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<u><b>Model/Description</b></u>	<u><b>Coverage Criteria</b></u>	<u><b>Non-Coverage Criteria</b></u>
<p>Custom designed frames which allow the position of the wheelchair to change.</p>	<p>be able to self-propel manual wheelchair; <b>AND</b></p> <p>2. Patient:</p> <p>a. has fixed hip angle; <b>OR</b></p> <p>b. has excess extensor tone of the trunk muscles; <b>OR</b></p> <p>c. has cerebral palsy; <b>OR</b></p> <p>d. has spinal cord injuries.</p>	<p>(bladder may be constricted, leg bag may leak).</p>
<p><b>Heavy Duty - Manual</b>                      Wt: varies                      Seat width: 18”                      Seat depth: 16 - 17”                      Seat height: equal or greater than 19” or equal or less than 21”                      Back height: 16-17”                      Arm style: fixed or detachable                      Includes reinforced back and seat upholstery.</p>	<p>1. Patient meets criteria for a standard manual wheelchair; <b>AND</b></p> <p>2. Patient weighs greater than 250 lbs.</p>	<p>1. Used solely for social, recreational or employment activities.</p>
<p><b>Extra Heavy Duty - Manual</b>                      Wt: greater than 36 lbs                      Seat width: 16-18”                      Seat depth: 16”                      Seat height: equal or greater than 19” or equal or less than 21”                      Back height: 16-17”                      Arm style: fixed or detachable                      Includes reinforced back and seat upholstery.</p>	<p>1. Patient meets criteria for a standard manual wheelchair; <b>AND</b></p> <p>2. Patient weighs greater than 300 lbs.</p>	<p>1. Used solely for social, recreational or employment activities.</p>
<p><b>Wide Heavy Duty- Manual</b>                      Wt: varies                      Seat width: greater than 18”                      Seat depth: 16 - 17”                      Seat height: equal or greater than 19” or equal or less than 21”                      Back height: 16-17”                      Arm style: fixed or detachable</p>	<p>1. Patient meets criteria for a standard manual wheelchair; <b>AND</b></p> <p>2. Patient’s hip width is greater than 18 inches.</p>	<p>1. Used solely for social, recreational or employment activities.</p>
<p><b>Motorized Wheelchairs</b>                      Used in severe impairment of functional mobility. Without the use of the wheelchair, the patient would be severely limited or unable to perform routine ADL’s. Inability to safely propel a manual wheelchair due to severely limited upper extremity function.</p>	<p>1. Patient meets criteria for a standard manual wheelchair; <b>AND</b></p> <p>2. Is unable to maneuver a manual wheelchair for a distance greater than 25 feet; <b>AND</b></p> <p>3. Has upper extremity impairment and cannot self-propel a manual wheelchair; <b>AND</b></p> <p>4. Is able to safely operate a power operated wheelchair; <b>AND</b></p> <p>5. Is expected to continue to need for the motorized wheelchair greater than six weeks.</p>	<p>1. Use as convenience item.</p> <p>2. When used primarily for transportation to work, shopping, social or recreational activities, to facilitate employment, or for other activities outside the domicile/home.</p> <p>3. Patient can self-propel from room to room in the home.</p> <p>4. Caregiver is available and can propel the patient.</p> <p>5. K0868-K0886 are considered <b>NMN</b> due to features that are not necessary for in home use.</p>

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<u>Model/Description</u>	<u>Coverage Criteria</u>	<u>Non-Coverage Criteria</u>
<p><b>Motorized Wheelchairs – Pediatric</b> Used in severe impairment of functional mobility. Without the use of the wheelchair, the patient would be severely limited or unable to perform routine ADL’s. Inability to safely propel a manual wheelchair due to severely limited upper extremity function. Inability of the caregiver to safely propel a manual wheelchair.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Patient meets criteria for a standard manual wheelchair; <b>AND</b></li> <li>2. Is able to safely operate a power operated wheelchair as determined by an appropriate developmental evaluation; <b>AND</b></li> <li>3. Is expected to continue need for the motorized wheelchair for greater than six weeks.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Patient cannot safely operate the power operated wheelchair due to lack of developed cognitive and motor skills.</li> <li>2. Caregiver is available and can propel the patient.</li> <li>3. Patient can self-propel from room to room in the home.</li> <li>4. When used primarily for transportation to shopping, social or recreational activities, or for other activities outside the domicile/home.</li> <li>5. Use as convenience item.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Power Operated Vehicle</b> Electrically operated three or four wheeled chair or scooter designed to transport a patient that is unable to ambulate but has adequate trunk stability to be able to ride safely in the vehicle.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Patient meets criteria for a standard manual wheelchair; <b>AND</b></li> <li>2. Is unable to maneuver a manual wheelchair for a distance greater than 25 feet; <b>AND</b></li> <li>3. Is be able to safely transfer in and out of POV and have adequate trunk stability to ride safely in the vehicle; <b>AND</b></li> <li>4. Has a condition that is non-progressive; POV may be provided in lieu of motorized wheelchair if the POV meets the needs of the patient and is a more cost-efficient alternative; <b>AND</b></li> <li>5. Disability is expected to continue for greater than six months.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Use as convenience item; or</li> <li>2. Patient has inadequate trunk stability to ride safely; or</li> <li>3. Patient is disoriented or cannot be left unattended; or</li> <li>4. Patient is unable to operate controls; or</li> <li>5. Use as back-up item; or</li> <li>6. Purchased without a prescription.</li> <li>7. K0806-K0808 are considered <b>NMN</b> due to features that are not necessary for in home use.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Rollabout/Transport Chairs</b> May also be called a mobile geriatric chair (geri-chair). Front and back wheels the same size.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Patient meets criteria for a standard manual wheelchair except may not be able to self-propel manual wheelchair; <b>AND</b></li> <li>2. Is used as primary means of transport in the home.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Used solely for social, recreational or employment activities.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Pediatric Stroller</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Child is non-ambulatory; <b>AND</b></li> <li>2. Stroller is used to transport child to and from school; <b>AND</b></li> <li>3. Child requires more support than is available in a standard pediatric wheelchair; <b>OR</b></li> <li>4. Child is too small to safely use a standard pediatric wheelchair; <b>OR</b></li> <li>5. Commercially available stroller is inadequate to meet the child’s needs.</li> </ol>	<p>Not applicable.</p>

VIII. The following is a list of special features, accessories, and customizations with coverage criteria. This list is not all-inclusive.

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<u>Feature/ Description</u>	<u>Coverage Criteria</u>	<u>Non-Coverage Criteria</u>
<b>Adjustable arm-height option</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Patient spends at least two hours per day in a wheelchair; <b>AND</b></li> <li>2. Patient needs arm height that is different from standard non-adjustable arms.</li> </ol>	Not applicable.
<b>Anti-roll back or anti-tip device</b> Prevents tipping or wheelchair ability to independently raise front wheels when accessing inclines.	Patient propels either a manual wheelchair or power operated wheelchair up ramps/inclines.	Not applicable.
<b>Arm support/ trough</b> Stabilizes the arm.	Patient has quadriplegia/ tetraplegia, or hemiplegia, or uncontrolled arm movements.	Not applicable.
<b>Attendant Drive Control</b> Allows the caregiver to drive the wheelchair instead of the patient.	Not applicable.	Convenience item.
<b>Battery Charger</b> Single mode included with power wheelchair base.	Not applicable.	Dual mode battery charger is a convenience item.
<b>Caster Tires</b> Pneumatic or semi-pneumatic - provides shock absorption from outdoor and rough surfaces. Solid core - used on smooth surfaces and indoors (flat-free).	Not applicable.	Castor tires with lights are considered a convenience item.
<b>Chin Control/Support</b>	Patient has weak neck muscles.	Not applicable.
<b>Clothing/ Side Guards</b> Protects clothing from dirt, mud or water thrown up by the wheels.	Not applicable.	Convenience item (used for outside the home).
<b>Custom Manual/Power Wheelchair Base</b> Frame has been customized to a specific patient.	Patient requires a wheelchair base that is not an available option in an already manufactured base.	Not applicable.
<b>Elevating Leg Rests – Manual or Power</b> Allows the leg to be raised and lowered independently of the recline and/or tilt of the seating system. Power leg elevation for use with a Power Wheelchair.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Musculoskeletal condition or presence of cast or brace that prevents 9- degree flexion of the knee; <b>OR</b></li> <li>2. Significant edema of the lower extremities; <b>OR</b></li> <li>3. Has a reclining back on a wheelchair.</li> </ol>	Not applicable.

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<u>Feature/ Description</u>	<u>Coverage Criteria</u>	<u>Non-Coverage Criteria</u>
<p>Articulating (telescoping) power elevating leg rests lengthen while also extending the knee.</p>		
<p><b>Controller- Integral or Modular - Power</b></p> <p>Controller function allows the patient to operate the power wheelchair. It is used in conjunction with a proportional interface in which the direction and amount of movement by the patient controls the direction and speed of the wheelchair. One example of a proportional interface is a standard joystick.</p> <p>A non-proportional interface consists of a number of switches. An example of a non-proportional interface is a sip and puff control.</p> <p>Integral controller has single housing unit with joystick; may be standard. (e.g., Remote Plus electronic system).</p> <p>Modular controller has separate components for different functions. Able to mix and match components to accommodate function enhancers. (e.g., Q-logic Control System).</p>	<p>Inability to operate a manual or power wheelchair.</p> <p>*Integral controller for patients who will have little or no change in functional status and need no special control features in their wheelchair.</p> <p>*Modular controller for patients who need enhanced functions such as sip and puff, head array, power seating systems.</p>	<p>Additional modules for the Q-logic Control System (e.g., environmental controls) is a convenience item.</p>
<p><b>Fully Reclining/ Folding Back- Manual</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Patient is quadriplegic/tetraplegic; <b>OR</b></li> <li>2. Has trunk or lower extremity cast/braces that require specially positioning; <b>OR</b></li> <li>3. Has fixed hip angle; <b>OR</b></li> <li>4. Has excess extensor tone of the trunk muscle; <b>OR</b></li> <li>5. Has prior history of skin breakdown; <b>OR</b></li> <li>6. Utilizes intermittent catheterization for bladder management and is unable to independently transfer from the wheelchair to bed; <b>OR</b></li> <li>7. Is unable to carry out a functional weight shift due to spinal cord disease, neurological disease, childhood cerebral degeneration,</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Convenience item if purpose is for transport only.</li> <li>2. Used for prophylaxis of sacral decubiti.</li> </ol>

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<u>Feature/ Description</u>	<u>Coverage Criteria</u>	<u>Non-Coverage Criteria</u>
	Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease.	
<b>Head rest</b> (Not included in power tilt and recline or power recline seating system.)	1. Patient meets criteria for manual tilt-in-space; <b>OR</b> 2. Manual semi- or fully reclining back; <b>OR</b> 3. Power tilt and or recline seating system.	Considered <b>NMN</b> on a Power Wheelchair with a Captain’s seat.
<b>Miscellaneous accessories:</b> Amputee adapter, heel loops, IV rod, narrowing device, oxygen carrier, ventilator tray, speech generative device table, suspension fork, wide stance arm bracket, leg straps, footrests, back straps, additional pads for hips, arms, or legs.	May be considered <b>medically necessary</b> based on individual consideration when adequate documentation is provided.	Not applicable.
<b>Miscellaneous Accessories (Non Covered):</b> Trays, back packs, crutch or cane holder, shock absorbers, impact guards, lighting systems any option or accessory that is primarily for the purpose of allowing the member to perform leisure, recreation or sports activities, electrical or mechanical features that enhance basic equipment and that usually serve a convenience function.	Not applicable.	Convenience items.
<b>Upholstery - Reinforced Back or Seat</b> Not standard with power wheelchair base.	Patient weighs more than 200 lbs.	1. Should be included with heavy duty or extra heavy-duty wheelchair base. 2. If used in conjunction with other manual wheelchair bases.
<b>Push/ Hand Rims/ Handles</b> Addition to wheel to aid in self propelling a manual wheelchair rather than pushing on tire rim. Poorly designed hand rims can cause pain in hands and wrists associated with Carpal Tunnel Syndrome (e.g., Natural Fit hand rims provide ergonomic grip and greater control when braking).	Pain in hands from pushing standard hand rims or tires.	Not designed for patients with poor hand function.



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<u>Feature/ Description</u>	<u>Coverage Criteria</u>	<u>Non-Coverage Criteria</u>
<p><b>Power add-ons/ Push Activated System</b> Provides an additional power boost to wheels upon the users input force on the push rims. This added boost often provides the necessary force to get the users up hills or to allow them to continue on in a manual chair when shoulder pain, strength or fatigue might otherwise force them to go to a powered wheelchair.</p>	<p>Based on individual consideration when adequate documentation provided.</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>
<p><b>Safety Belt/ Shoulder Harness, Structured Harness</b> Allows for proper positioning.</p>	<p>1. Weak upper body muscles; <b>OR</b> 2. Patient has upper body instability or muscle spasticity.</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>
<p><b>Seat Cushion or Back Cushion</b> General Use: Prefabricated cushion made of foam, flexible cellular material, air fluid or solid gel. Skin Protection: Composed of foam, flexible cellular material, air, fluid or solid gel or a multi-compartment air cushion or composed of two or more types of foam with different stiffness. Positioning: Composed of foam, flexible cellular material, air, fluid and supporting structural features.</p>	<p>1. Patient spends at least two hrs per day in a wheelchair; <b>AND</b> 2. History of or current pressure ulcer on area of contact with seating surface; <b>OR</b> 3. Absent or impaired sensation in area of contact with seating surface; <b>OR</b> 4. Unable to carry out a functional weight shift due to spinal cord disease, neurological disease, childhood cerebral degeneration, Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease; <b>OR</b> 5. Significant postural asymmetries due to spinal cord injury/disease, demyelinating disease, neurological diseases, Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, hemiplegia due to stroke, traumatic brain injury.</p>	<p>1. Patient does not have a wheelchair. 2. Use with transport chair (comfort item). 3. Patient cannot reposition self at least every two hours (seat cushion will not prevent development of pressure ulcers).</p>
<p><b>Seat or Back Cushion - Custom Fabricated</b> Has removable waterproof cover or surface.</p>	<p>1. Meets criteria for skin protection seat or positioning seat cushion; <b>AND</b> 2. Explanation from health care profession why this type of cushion is necessary.</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>
<p><b>Seat Cushion - Powered</b> Battery operated, prefabricated cushion powered by an air pump to cause the cushion to inflate and deflate.</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>	<p>Considered <b>Investigational</b> as its effectiveness has not been established.</p>

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<u>Feature/ Description</u>	<u>Coverage Criteria</u>	<u>Non-Coverage Criteria</u>
<p><b>Seat and Back Cushions - Replacement</b></p>	<p>1. Would be considered when out of warranty; <b>OR</b>                      2. Irreparably damaged (other than wear and tear); <b>OR</b>                      3. Item is lost or stolen; <b>OR</b>                      4. A change in member’s medical condition that requires a different type of seating or positioning item.</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>
<p><b>Seating System</b>                      Ensures optimal posture and positioning.                      Consists of: 1) Seat, 2) Back, and 3) Supports.  <u>Four different types:</u>                      1. Sling – minimal support;                      2. Planar – flat surface without contours – firm support. For patients with no pelvis/spinal deformities.                      3. Contoured – postural support and pressure relief (e.g., Synergy, TruComfort, Jay Fit for pediatric patients).                      4. Custom Contoured- conforms to shape of pelvis and spine. Provides maximum support and pressure distribution.</p>	<p>Based on individual consideration when adequate documentation provided.</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>
<p><b>Seat Elevation- Power</b>                      Raises and lowers the patient in their seated position by the use of an electro-mechanical lift system, without changing the seated angles or the seat’s angle relative to the ground, in order to provide varying amounts of added vertical access. A seat elevator may elevate vertically from a standard seat height, or may lower the user closer to the floor.</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>	<p>Convenience item.</p>
<p><b>Stander Attachment- Power</b>                      Patient requires assistance to assume standing position and has some residual muscular strength in legs, such that standing will improve lower body strength.</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>	<p>No evidence that power stander improves lower body strength for patients who are completely paralyzed in the legs and hips.</p>

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<u>Feature/ Description</u>	<u>Coverage Criteria</u>	<u>Non-Coverage Criteria</u>
<p><b>Tilt and/or Recline Seating Systems - Manual/Power</b>                      Designed to reduce the weight placed on a person's coccyx (tailbone) and buttocks.                      Disperses weight evenly over the buttocks and legs. Tilting backwards shifts weight off the buttocks and legs while maintaining a normal sitting posture.</p>	<p>1. Patient is quadriplegic/tetraplegic; <b>OR</b>                      2. Has trunk or lower extremity cast/braces that require specially positioning; <b>OR</b>                      3. Has fixed hip angle; <b>OR</b>                      4. Has excess extensor tone of the trunk muscle; <b>OR</b>                      5. Has prior history of skin breakdown; <b>OR</b>                      6. Significant edema of lower extremities; <b>OR</b>                      7. Utilizes intermittent catheterization for bladder management and is unable to independently transfer from the wheelchair to bed; <b>OR</b>                      8. Is unable to carry out a functional weight shift due to spinal cord disease, neurological disease, childhood cerebral degeneration, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease.</p>	<p>Used for prophylaxis of sacral decubiti.</p>
<p><b>Swing away, Retractable or Removable Legrests/ Hardware</b></p>	<p>If needed for patient to perform a slide transfer to a chair or bed.</p>	<p>1. If primary use is to allow patient to move closer to desks or other surfaces.                      2. Should be considered part of the wheelchair base.</p>
<p><b>Transport Tie Down</b>                      Keeps chair stabilized when traveling. Usually an addition to the transport vehicle rather than to the wheelchair.</p>	<p>Covered for pediatric patients if wheelchair is used to transport to and from school.</p>	<p>1. Convenience item for adults.</p>
<p><b>Wheelchair Tires</b>                      Specially designed tires which may be more lightweight, narrower, have custom rims or be "flat-free". May be used for sports or recreational activities.                      Pneumatic: air filled: lightweight provides cushioned ride.                      Semi-pneumatic: possible problematic maintenance.                      Flat-free: standard tires filled with polyfoam.</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>	<p>1. Used for sports or recreational purpose; or                      2. Snow tires (convenience item).</p>

**CODES**

- *Eligibility for reimbursement is based upon the benefits set forth in the member's subscriber contract.*

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- *CODES MAY NOT BE COVERED UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES. PLEASE READ THE POLICY AND GUIDELINES STATEMENTS CAREFULLY.*
- *Codes may not be all inclusive as the AMA and CMS code updates may occur more frequently than policy updates.*
- *Code Key: Experimental/Investigational = (E/I), Not medically necessary/ appropriate = (NMN).*

**CPT Codes**

Code	Description
No codes	

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**HCPCS Codes**

Code	Description
<b>Wheelchairs:</b>	
E1031	Rollabout wheelchair, any and all types with casters 5in or greater
E1038	Transport chair, adult size, patient weight capacity less than 300 pounds
E1050 E1060 E1070	Fully reclining wheelchairs
E1083 E1084 E1085 E1086	Standard hemi (low seat) wheelchair
E1087 E1088 E1089 E1090	High strength, lightweight wheelchair
E1092 E1093 E1280-E1295 K0006	Heavy duty wheelchair
E1100 E1110	Semi-reclining wheelchairs
E1130-E1160	Standard wheelchair
E1161	Manual adult size wheelchair, includes tilt in space
E1170-E1200	Amputee wheelchairs
K0011	Standard-weight frame motorized/power wheelchair with programmable control parameters for speed adjustment, tremor dampening, acceleration control and braking
E1220-E1228	Other manual wheelchair/base or accessories
E1229	Wheelchair, pediatric size, not otherwise specified
E1230	Power operated vehicle (3 or 4 wheel non-highway), specify brand name and model number
E1231-1234	Wheelchair, pediatric size, tilt-in-space, rigid, adjustable, with or without seating system
E1235-1238	Wheelchair, pediatric size, rigid or folding, adjustable, with or without seating system
E1239	Power wheelchair, pediatric size, not otherwise specified
E1240-E1270 K0003	Lightweight wheelchair
K0001	Standard wheelchair
K0002	Standard hemi (low seat) wheelchair
K0004	High strength, lightweight wheelchair

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<b>Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
K0005	Ultralightweight wheelchair
K0007	Extra heavy duty wheelchair
K0008	Custom Manual Wheelchair Base
K0009	Other manual wheelchair/base
K0010	Standard-weight frame motorized/power wheelchair
K0012	Lightweight portable motorized/power wheelchair
K0013	Custom Motorized/Power Wheelchair Base
K0014	Other motorized/power wheelchair base
K0800-K0898	Power operated vehicles/wheelchairs
<b>Options/Accessories:</b>	
E0953 E0954	Lateral thigh support; footbox; including hardware
E0955 E0966	Headrest, headrest extension
E0971	Manual wheelchair accessory, antitipping device, each
E1012	Wheelchair accessory, addition to power seating system, center mount power elevating leg rest/platform, complete system, any type, each
E1014 E1225-E1226 E2291 E2293 E2398 E2611-E2617 E2619-E2621 K0669	Back of chair

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<b>Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
E0973 E0994 K0015 K0017-K0020	Arm of chair
E0968 E0978 E0981 E0992 E1007 E2230 (NMN) E2231 E2292 E2294 E2295 E2601-E2610 K0669	Seat
E2298 (NMN)  E2300 (NMN) Termed 03/31/24	Wheelchair accessory, power seat elevation system, any type ( <i>Effective 04/01/24</i> ) (Replacing E2300)  Wheelchair accessory, power seat elevation system, any type
E0951 E0952 E0970 E0990 E0995 E1010 K0047 K0050-K0053 K0195	Foot rest/Leg rest
E1011 K0056	Seat Width, Depth, Height
E2205	Manual wheelchair accessory, handrim without projections (includes ergonomic or contoured), any type, replacement only, each
E0967	Manual wheelchair accessory, hand rim with projections, any type, replacement only, each
K0065-K0070	Rear Wheels
K0071-K0077	Front Caster
E0961 E0974 E2206	Wheel Lock
E2360-E2367	Batteries/Chargers for Motorized/Power Wheelchairs
E0950	Wheelchair accessory, tray, each

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<b>Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
E0950 E0958 E0959 E2368-E2370 K0098	Motorized/Power Wheelchair Parts
E2373-E2377	Power wheelchair accessory control interface/controller
E2381-E2396	Power wheelchair wheel/caster/tire
E0986	Manual wheelchair accessory, push-rim activated power assist system
K0733	Power wheelchair accessory, 12 to 24 amp hour sealed lead acid battery, each (e.g., gel cell, absorbed glassmat)
E0956 E0957 E0969 E1035 K0105 K0108	Miscellaneous Accessories

**ICD10 Codes**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
Numerous	

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\*Key Article

**KEY WORDS**

Power operated vehicle, Scooter, Wheelchair.

**CMS COVERAGE FOR MEDICARE PRODUCT MEMBERS**

There is currently a National Coverage Determination (NCD# 280.3) for Mobility Assistive Equipment (MAE). Please refer to the following NCD website for Medicare Members: [<http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/ncd-details.aspx?NCDId=219&ncdver=2&bc=AgAAgAAAAAA&>] accessed 07/19/24.

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There is currently a Local Coverage Determination (LCD# L33788) for Manual Wheelchair Bases. Please refer to the following LCD website for Medicare Members: [<https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/lcd.aspx?LCDId=33788>] accessed 07/19/24.

There is currently a Local Coverage Article (LCA# A52497) for Manual Wheelchair Bases. Please refer to the following LCA website for Medicare Members: [<https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/article.aspx?articleid=52497&ver=35&KeyWord=Manual+wheelchair+bases&KeyWordLookUp=Title&KeyWordSearchType=Exact&bc=CAAAAAAAAAAAAA>]. accessed 07/19/24.

There is currently a Local Coverage Determination (LCD) L33312 for Wheelchair Seating. Please refer to the following LCD website for Medicare Members: [

There is currently a Local Coverage Article (LCA) A52505 for Wheelchair Seating. Please refer to the following LCA website for Medicare Members: [