

BOLTON WHEELCHAIR SERVICE

**Eligibility Criteria for
the supply of Wheelchairs
and Special Seating
under NHS contracts
managed by
Bolton Wheelchair Service**

Criteria for the Supply of Wheelchairs and Special Seating Equipment

To be eligible for a permanent wheelchair the user must be registered with a Bolton GP and due to medical reasons:

- Be permanently dependent upon the wheelchair for all mobility needs.
- Be able to demonstrate that they will regularly use it on a daily basis.
- Require the wheelchair for longer than 6 months.

Children under 36 months will only be considered for mobility equipment if there is a specialist supportive/ postural seating need.

Bolton Wheelchair Service (BWS) aims to meet a client's basic mobility requirements.

BWS will only provide equipment to meet physical mobility need. We do not provide wheelchairs for people who are mobile but whose behavioural problems affect their ability to mobilise safely.

All equipment is provided according to the clinical judgement of qualified Wheelchair Therapists.

Exclusions

BWS does not provide:

- Adult wheelchairs for outdoor use only; this includes manually propelled and electrically powered chairs.
- Wheelchairs in place of suitable static seating
- Transit wheelchairs to residents of Residential Care or Nursing Homes
- Short term loans
- Attendant operated or dual controlled powered wheelchairs
- Lightweight wheelchairs
- Powered scooters
- Wheelchairs required as part of a programme of rehabilitation, either in hospital or at a specialist rehabilitation centre, as part of the on-going treatment process
- Powered Bariatric wheelchairs (for clients above 25 stones in weight) – assessment for manual chairs will be completed on individual basis
- All terrain chairs, either manual or powered

Wheelchairs are supplied for the exclusive use of the person they are provided for.

If a wheelchair is no longer required by the user, the approved repairer must be contacted to arrange for collection.

Basic Wheelchairs, Transit & Self Propelled

Following assessment these will be supplied where a basic wheelchair will meet clinical need. Basic wheelchairs may be transit or self-propel versions.

Lightweight Wheelchairs

These will be provided where:

- User/Carer have demonstrated they cannot lift a basic wheelchair less all accessories and removable parts
- User has demonstrated they cannot effectively self-propel a basic wheelchair

This will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Modular Wheelchairs

These are provided where basic or lightweight wheelchairs will not meet the clinical need of the user.

Active User Wheelchairs

These will be provided following clinical assessment where the user is functionally unable to walk indoors and is totally reliant on the wheelchair for all mobility needs.

Clients whose upper limb problems do not permit functional self-propelling in a basic/lightweight or modular wheelchair and do require complete independence (including kerbs) will be considered for an active user wheelchair from the range provided by Bolton Wheelchair Service.

If the client is assessed as suitable for the issue of a High Performance wheelchair, all other wheelchair service equipment on loan must be surrendered unless a clear clinical need can be identified.

Pushchairs & Buggies

These would only be provided when age appropriate and would not normally be provided by BWS where a wheelchair would meet clinical need. However in special circumstances where it can be demonstrated that a wheelchair would not meet clinical need a pushchair or buggy may be provided.

Double / Twin Buggies / Tandem Pushchairs

These will only be provided either for two disabled children, or when the older child is disabled, and a standard twin buggy / tandem pushchair is available and suitable.

Glideabout Chair

Supply of these will be restricted to clients who are already a qualifying wheelchair user for use in homes where it is necessary to have a wheelchair on another level or where there is insufficient space to manoeuvre a wheelchair.

Electric Powered Indoor Wheelchairs (EPIC)

Powered indoor chairs will be supplied to people:

- Functionally unable to walk and functionally unable to self-propel indoors, **OR** where self-propelling or walking indoors would be detrimental to their medical condition
- Who would gain independence from such a chair

The following are essential to provision:

- An assessment to ensure the prospective user is cognitively, perceptually and physically capable of safely operating the chair
- An inspection of the home environment to ensure adequate space and charging facilities are available
- Adaptations required are completed before the chair is delivered
- In the event of there being three or more months between assessment and delivery, a reassessment will be considered.

Bolton Wheelchair Service will remove a chair if it is felt that the above criteria are no longer applicable.

Electric Powered Indoor/Outdoor Chair (EPIOC)

The aim of these criteria is to ensure that the most severely disabled people requiring a permanent wheelchair are issued with an electrically powered indoor/outdoor chair. A screening questionnaire will be filled in by the client and screened by the service to ascertain eligibility.

The assessors may seek further medical advice about individual users from the clients GP or Consultant as required.

To be eligible the following criteria must be fulfilled:

As above for EPIC provision, and:

- The applicant must have the capacity to derive significant improvement in their independence and quality of life through frequent and regular use of an indoor/outdoor powered wheelchair.
- The applicant must be medically fit to independently control a powered wheelchair indoors and outdoors, including being:
 - 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.
 - Free from any combination of medical conditions and treatments likely to make independent powered wheelchair control unsafe for themselves, pedestrians or other roads users.
- Two aspects of eyesight must be met:
 - Visual acuity. The applicant should meet the DVLA 20 metre distance test of reading a number plate.

- The applicant should have a field vision of 120 degrees in a horizontal plane and 20 degrees above and below this plane.
- The applicant must demonstrate in a driving test or by other means that they have the insight, intellectual capacity 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.
- The applicant must have a suitable home environment including:
 - A suitable area for storage for the wheelchair with a power supply and the ability or help to charge the wheelchair.
 - adequate space for movement of the wheelchair within the home
 - safe and easy access to the outdoors
- The applicant must have an accessible outside environment, which is suitable for a powered wheelchair. Any adaptations required must have been put in place prior to BWS issuing the EPIOC.
- The applicant must accept the Conditions of Loan:
 - The chair will remain on loan subject to regular review on the understanding that the client continues to meet the above criteria. If subsequently the client fails to meet any one of these criteria, the wheelchair may be withdrawn.

Attendant Controlled Electronically Powered Outdoor Wheelchairs

Funding does not permit the provision of attendant controlled powered wheelchairs.

Accessories and Adaptations

These will only be provided following assessment where there is a clear clinical need.

Special Seating Systems

These will be provided for users who are unable to maintain normal posture when sitting in a wheelchair. They will be assessed by Bolton Wheelchair Service in conjunction with the client's own key therapist and wherever possible his/her carer. This service is available to all age groups.

Corrective seating systems or modifications for postural support will only be provided if their posture cannot be managed with special cushions or their equivalent.

Special seating systems are not to be requested as a substitute for static seating.

Pressure Relieving Cushions

These cushions will be provided to be used in conjunction with a prescribed wheelchair where there is a clear risk of damage to the skin. Users with pressure ulcers will only be provided with a pressure cushion following liaison with appropriate members of the multi-disciplinary team.

Bolton Wheelchair Service do not provide pressure cushions for use on arm chairs or static seating.

More than one Wheelchair

The supply of more than one wheelchair may be considered where:

- The use of a wheelchair is required both upstairs and downstairs and there is no through floor lift to transport the wheelchair. An additional wheelchair is therefore provided on loan for use upstairs only.
- An indoor wheelchair has been issued and this is not suitable for outdoor use e.g. is a glideabout or an Electrically Powered Indoor Chair, and therefore a transit wheelchair is issued for outdoor use.

NOTE:-

A request for one standard duplicate wheelchair for use at either school or college may be considered, but Bolton Wheelchair Service must assess all such requests. If a High Performance wheelchair is on issue, a second wheelchair can only be issued under exceptional circumstances.

Supply of wheelchairs and Special Seating to Nursing Homes

Provision of a wheelchair will allow the patient to mobilise independently e.g. self-propel or use EPIC/EPIOC.

Wheelchairs will only be issued for the exclusive use of the referred and will not be provided where the main use is for portering purposes around the home or for trips out with care staff.

Pool Wheelchairs

Pool wheelchairs are not supplied by BWS.

Personal Wheelchair Budgets

Bolton Foundation Trust BWS operates the Personal Wheelchair Budget (PWB) scheme in accordance with NHS England's published guidance. The NHS must assess applicants before they can apply for a PWB.

All adaptations required for any chair otherwise provided by BWS, and required for the chair for which the PWB is intended, must be in place prior to the PWB being issued.

PWB's are only provided towards chairs, either manual or powered, that meet the clinical needs of the patient (e.g. not provided towards all-terrain chairs).