

Personal Wheelchair Budgets (PWB)

Introduction to Personal Wheelchair Budgets (PWBs)

The Exeter Mobility Centre Wheelchair Service is now offering Personal Wheelchair Budgets (PWB). This is an individual resource available to help you meet your mobility, health and wellbeing outcomes. During the mobility assessment process you will work with a clinician to identify your needs and the outcomes that you want to achieve from your wheelchair.

You will then be prescribed an NHS wheelchair and be told the cost of this provision. This is your Personal Wheelchair Budget (PWB). At this stage you can choose to accept the wheelchair that has been prescribed at no cost to you, from the NHS.

There are three other options available to you, should you wish not to accept the NHS chair that has been prescribed. These options will result in a cost to you. All options are described in this leaflet. Please note that direct payments are not yet an option for wheelchairs in Devon.

In some cases, you may be able to apply for funding from voluntary or charitable organisations to assist you with some of these costs. If you choose to request charitable funding it will be your responsibility to pursue this and co-ordinate any applications, although the clinical team may be able to provide you with a list of organisations to contact.

Please note, seating and cushions are not available via PWBs.

Helping you to move your life forwards

1. NHS Provision

You can choose to accept the chair prescribed, at no cost to you, from the NHS.

2. Notional PWB - Alternative Wheelchair

You can choose to upgrade to an alternative wheelchair within the wheelchair service range. In this scheme the NHS will contribute an amount, which is the same value as your prescribed wheelchair. You will need to pay the difference between this value and the cost of your chosen wheelchair. We will send you an invoice for the amount that you need to pay. Your wheelchair will not be ordered until full payment has been received.

The wheelchair you choose will need to be agreed as clinically appropriate by your NHS wheelchair specialist and must meet your mobility and postural needs. The chair must also be in the same category as the chair prescribed to you e.g. manual, powered indoor, powered indoor/outdoor etc.

3. Notional PWB - Top Up Features

You may decide that you would like additional features added to the wheelchair prescribed by the Wheelchair Service. We will send you an invoice for the amount that you need to pay for these additional features. Your wheelchair will not be ordered until full payment has been received.

Your NHS Wheelchair Therapist or Rehabilitation Engineer will be able to advise and support your choice of additional features. The value you will be allocated is still the cost to the NHS to provide a wheelchair to meet your identified mobility needs.

In both of the above Notional PWB options the NHS would still own the wheelchair and would remain responsible for repairs and maintenance, including any additional features you have upgraded to. All of the normal conditions of loan would apply.

By choosing additional features or an upgraded wheelchair you or the supporting organisation will be contributing to the overall cost of the wheelchair package. This will include VAT at 20% for the additional features. As ownership for the whole chair, including any items added on top-up remain property of the Wheelchair Service, VAT will not be reclaimable on any elements of the chair.

4. Third Party PWB

In this scheme you will be given an amount that is the same value as your prescribed wheelchair, together with a one-off payment to cover repair and maintenance costs for the duration of the PWB period. It will then be your responsibility to order your own chair via an approved supplier and to organise repairs and maintenance for it. You will not need to pay VAT on the purchase of the wheelchair.

The wheelchair you choose will need to be agreed as clinically appropriate by your NHS wheelchair specialist and must meet your mobility and postural needs. The chair must also be in the same category as the chair prescribed to you e.g. manual, powered indoor, powered indoor/outdoor etc.

The appropriate wheelchair specialist will be able to provide general advice if you choose this option, but will not accompany you to the assessment by alternative providers.

Note that your PWB cannot be used to purchase second hand wheelchairs, scooters or trikes. The NHS will provide seating / cushion as these are not available via PWB.

Your Third Party PWB includes an allowance for repairs and maintenance as you will not have access to the NHS approved repair service. This wheelchair becomes your property and your responsibility. It will be your responsibility to arrange ongoing repairs for the PWB duration.

Personal Wheelchair Support Plan

You will be sent a pre-appointment questionnaire to complete prior to your assessment. You will be asked to think about the things that are important to you and your personal goals. This will help you and your Wheelchair specialist to find the most suitable wheelchair / seating solution to help to meet your mobility and postural needs.

Expected Longevity of Equipment & Insurance

A typical adult wheelchair lasts a minimum of 5 years. For children, changes are needed more often as they grow, typically every 3 years. The PWB durations will therefore reflect these timeframes.

Changes or additions to the equipment provided are not permitted for the duration of the scheme, unless there has been a significant change in your clinical condition, discussed with a member of the clinical team.

Public Liability Insurance (PLI) is strongly recommended if you are using your wheelchair in a public place, particularly a powered wheelchair. Please note that we do not provide PLI and it is your responsibility to source and fund a suitable policy for your needs.

Contact Details

Exeter Mobility Centre Wheelchair Service

Hennock Road East
Marsh Barton
Matford
Exeter
EX2 8RU
01392 547 400 option 3
Email: rduh.EMCWheelchairs@nhs.net

Invacare (Approved Repairer)

Tel: 0800 069 6216
Opening times:
Monday to Friday
8:30am to 4:30pm excluding Bank Holidays

The Trust cannot accept any responsibility for the accuracy of the information given if the leaflet is not used by Royal Devon staff undertaking procedures at the Royal Devon hospitals.

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