

WEST BERKSHIRE WHEELCHAIR SERVICE POLICY FOR THE ISSUE OF WHEELCHAIRS

Provision to clients within their own homes

Referrals only considered for clients who:

- Long-term condition affecting their mobility.
- Are unable to walk indoors with or without walking aids.
- Have completed all rehabilitation.
- Have suitable environment and cognitive ability for the wheelchair required to meet their clinical needs.

We are not commissioned to provide wheelchairs for outdoor use only.

We do not supply headrests specifically for transport.

We do not provide power packs.

Wheelchair provision will be based solely on clinical need.

Provision to clients within nursing homes

It is the responsibility of the nursing home in which the client resides to provide the following equipment without discrimination against residents' age, gender, size, weight or prognosis:

- Wheelchairs for general portering, nursing, toileting, access to grounds and/or community access.
- Pressure relieving cushions to fit the above style wheelchairs as well as standard accessories.
- Non-customised static special seating, eg: riser chairs, recliner chairs, postural chairs (tilt-in-space).

We do not provide wheelchairs to be used instead of suitable static seating.

The following equipment is considered to be standard and the nursing home will be responsible for provision and maintenance of:

- Standard accessories which include: lap straps, elevating leg rests, footboards, Bexhill armrests, trays, postural support inserts, back and head rest extensions.

Wheelchairs will be provided to clients for independent mobility to increase their personal and functional ability.

Clients who enter nursing or residential homes with a wheelchair previously provided by West Berkshire Wheelchair Service will only be supported by the Wheelchair Service until the chair no longer meets their needs or becomes beyond economical repair.

Provision of powered wheelchairs

We do not provide powered wheelchairs for outdoor use only or attendant controlled powered wheelchairs.

The following criteria have to be met before considering a client for a powered wheelchair:

- Client unable to walk or self propel indoors.
- Client will be able to control powered wheelchair independently.
- Client will be assessed and have to pass a test to demonstrate safe driving competence.
- There is a suitable home environment with access.
- A powered wheelchair will increase quality of life and functional independence.