

## Annex 3 – Eligibility criteria



### LINCOLNSHIRE WHEELCHAIR AND POSTURE SERVICE for CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE and ADULTS ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

#### 1. SERVICE OVERVIEW

- 1.1. The Wheelchair and Posture Service in Lincolnshire provides wheelchairs for adults and children with a long-term physical disability or a long-term illness that affects their mobility. The eligibility criteria are based on the clinical and essential activities of daily living needs of the Service User and their ability to use the wheelchair safely.
- 1.2. The service is provided for service users who meet NHS England's definition of medium, high and specialist need as per the NHS England's Level of Need Definition (see Appendix II on pages 31 and 32) and who are registered with a General Practitioner within the catchment area of the Lincolnshire ICB.
- 1.3. Provision includes wheelchairs to meet:
  - Basic mobility, postural and pressure care needs, some of which may be prescribed by appropriate professionals in the community.
  - Complex and custom-built wheelchairs
  - Special seating
  - Pressure relieving cushions
  - Powered chairs for both indoor and indoor/outdoor use and
  - Support with an option to self-purchase through the voucher scheme.
- 1.4. Equipment provided by the NHS remains the property of the NHS (however please see paragraph 4.1.3) and must be returned when no longer required by the service user to whom it was issued.
- 1.5. Service users must agree to adhere to the terms and condition of supply (see Appendix III).
- 1.6. Exclusion on the grounds of age or prognoses alone is unacceptable and discriminatory.
- 1.7. The definition of long-term is for a period of more than six months. The service is also provided to service users who are 'end of life' with a short life expectancy.
- 1.8. The wheelchair and posture service comprises of the following key components:
  - Referral
  - Assessment
  - Prescription
  - Purchase/Provision of Equipment
  - Equipment Delivery and Provision of Training
  - Repair Service
  - Re-Assessment
  - Equipment Hand-back/Collection Arrangements
  - Refurbishment of Equipment

## **2. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY PRINCIPLES**

- 2.1. Service users will be supplied with a wheelchair providing the following criteria are met.
  - New referrals and re-referrals can be made by a wide range of professionals to promote early access and early support. The Provider will accept referrals from: Primary Care professionals/ GPs; Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists; Community Nurses (District Nurses/ Community matrons/ Rapid Response Teams; SENCO/ School Nurses; Community Paediatricians; Hospital In-Patient Teams; Appropriately qualified Social Care Staff; Self-referral by Service Users (and Carers) for follow up assessments after the initial referral from a professional has been actioned with the exception of transition from manual to powered chair which will require a clinical referral.
  - The service user has a long-term physical condition that restricts their mobility (However please see Section 3 re: exclusions)
  - The service user has a long-term illness that restricts their mobility (However please see Section 3 re: exclusions)
  - The service user is 'within the last 6 months of their life: "End of Life" and requires a wheelchair to aid their mobility.
- 2.2. Service users with long-term needs who are referred into the service for provision of a wheelchair will be eligible for an assessment as will "End of Life" service users requiring a power chair.
- 2.3. Service users referred into the service for a power chair will require a Clinical Assessment, a Home Assessment, and a Driving Assessment.

## **3. EXCLUSIONS**

- 3.1. Where wheelchair provision has contra-indications to the service user's medical condition(s).
- 3.2. Where the provision of the wheelchair contra-indicates the service user's safety.
- 3.3. Wheelchairs/buggies will not be provided as a static chair.
- 3.4. Specialist chairs, such as for the purpose of sport, will not be funded within this Contract.
- 3.5. Pressure cushions will only be provided for use in the wheelchair provided by the Wheelchair and Posture Service. However, pressure cushions will also be provided for private chairs where an assessment has been done (and found to be appropriate and safe).
- 3.6. This service is not funded for the provision of powered wheelchairs for use outdoors only; this includes scooters and attendant powered wheelchairs and power packs.
- 3.7. The provision of wheelchairs to Care Homes (including Care Homes with Nursing) for the purpose of portering and transit is not included within this Contract. A wheelchair will be provided to a Care Home resident if there is an assessed clinical need, and the service user wishes to and is capable of independent mobility using a manual or powered chair. Service users with postural or pressure needs will only be supplied with equipment where the service user wishes to be, consents to and is capable of independent mobility and the wheelchair is for the sole purpose of that service user.
- 3.8. This service will not provide wheelchairs for the purpose of restraint owing to a behavioural or cognitive deficit if the service user has the ability to walk. Individuals who are eligible are those who are unable to walk, or it is medically inadvisable for them to walk (e.g. hypermobility in children and progressive neuromuscular conditions).

- 3.9. Additional batteries will not be supplied for EPICs (Electrically powered indoor chairs) and 'EPIOCs (Electrically powered indoor and outdoor chairs). The service user/carer is responsible for ensuring their Wheelchair battery is placed on charge.
- 3.10. Wheelchairs will not be provided as part of a programme of rehabilitation, whether in hospital or at a specialised rehabilitation centre as these should be provided by the hospital or rehabilitation centre as part of the on-going treatment process. Once the long-term clinical need for postural support is known, and the environment in which the wheelchair will be used on discharge, the Wheelchair and Posture Service will conduct an assessment. For safety reasons re: power chairs the permanent place of residence should be ascertained before a wheelchair is issued.
- 3.11. Wheelchairs that are required for use solely in a work situation will be covered by the Access to Work Scheme (<https://www.gov.uk/access-to-work/overview>).
- 3.12. Wheelchairs will only be provided for use solely in a school or other educational establishment where there is potential for the child to become an independent wheelchair user. Chairs used at school can go home once the individual has passed their wheelchair training (e.g. Portland Training College - Bronze, Silver or Gold). The home environment will need to be assessed by the Wheelchair and Posture Service.
- 3.13. The Wheelchair and Posture Service will only provide equipment to children who are unable to demonstrate good sitting posture (good sitting posture means that they are able to sit unaided with their pelvis and spine aligned and have good head control and who do not need to rely on their hands to maintain their posture). However, if commercially available buggies do not meet the child's clinical needs then a referral and assessment will be made.
- 3.14. Rain covers and sunshades are only supplied by the Wheelchair and Posture Service in exceptional circumstances e.g. cystic fibrosis and acute photosensitivity that causes epilepsy or acute skin reactions.
- 3.15. Lap straps, harnesses and head supports are supplied where there is an identified clinical need.

#### **4. PROVISION ARRANGEMENTS**

- 4.1. The Service User / Carer must be aware of all options for wheelchairs and specialist seating at the beginning of the prescription process. Following referral and/or assessment, the service user will be offered the provision of a wheelchair in one of the following ways. The service user may choose which option they prefer, but they will still have to be assessed by the Wheelchair and Posture Service who will ensure that the equipment chosen meets clinical and essential activities of daily living needs.
  - 4.1.1 Wheelchair supplied as per the prescription, fully funded by the service, and fully maintained and repaired by the Wheelchair and Posture Service.
  - 4.1.2 Voucher supplied on a Partnership Option basis, for the amount of the prescribed wheelchair, allowing the service user/carer to top-up and purchase a wheelchair in line with their preferences which are additional to the assessed need. The wheelchair is owned, maintained and repaired by the Wheelchair and Posture Service and will be purchased by the Wheelchair and Posture Service.
  - 4.1.3 Voucher supplied on the Independent Option basis, for the amount of the prescribed wheelchair, allowing the service user/carer to top-up and purchase a wheelchair in line with their preferences which are additional to the assessed need. The wheelchair is owned, maintained and repaired by the service user. The wheelchair will be purchased by the service user/carer. The service will sign-post the service user to reputable wheelchair suppliers.

- 4.1.4 The Provider must demonstrate to the commissioner the readiness to meet essential features of Personal Health Budgets.

## 5. PRODUCT RANGE

5.1. Supplied based on clinically assessed need and prescription:

- Standard Non-Powered Wheelchairs
- Non-Powered Buggies
- Tilt in Space Wheelchairs
- Electrically Powered Indoor Wheelchairs (See Appendix I page 6)
- Electrically Powered Indoor/Outdoor Wheelchairs (See Appendix I page 8)
- Bariatric Wheelchairs
- Postural Seating
- Pressure Relief Cushions
- Wheelchair Accessories

5.2. Wheelchair accessories are supplied where there is an assessed and identified clinical need as follows:

- Trays
- Head Supports
- Specialist Arm Supports
- Elevating Leg Rest Supports (ELR's)
- Harnesses will be supplied for clinical/postural need but not for transportation in a vehicle
- Lap Straps (where there is a postural requirement).
- Positioning Belts
- Footboards/Calf Pads will be supplied where there is a positioning need.
- Ankle Huggers and Foot Straps will be supplied where there is a positioning need and where a suitable pelvic positioning belt is fitted

5.3. Replacing Existing Equipment

Replacement of equipment will only be undertaken if it no longer meets the service user's clinical needs or the repair service deems that the equipment is beyond economic repair.

## 6. MEETING SERVICE USER NEEDS

### CLINICAL NEEDS

- 6.1. The decision in terms of which wheelchair to prescribe initially rests with the assessment in terms of whether or not the service user has the ability to self-propel.
- 6.2. Service user's needs must be considered on an individual case by case basis.
- 6.3. The length of time the service user spends in their wheelchair will determine what type of pressure cushion and postural support is required. The seating and cushioning provided 'will ensure that the service user does not suffer any secondary medical complications.
- 6.4. Adaptions will only be made to wheelchairs in order to ensure clinical appropriateness
- 6.5. The referrer must consider the need to promote independence when requesting the type of wheelchair to be provided. The wheelchair must achieve maximum self-reliance and independence for the service user.

- 6.6. It must be recognised that service users' needs may change, and re-assessments must be conducted for service users that are likely to have a change in their condition, for example, service users who suffer from neurological deteriorating conditions, such as muscular dystrophy.
- 6.7. Special buggies and/or special seating can be issued to children who have not yet demonstrated good sitting posture (good sitting posture means that they are able to sit unaided with their pelvis and spine aligned and have good head control and who do not need to rely on their hands to maintain their posture). Seating units will be issued after assessment, together with the child's therapist and carer. This must be part of a 24-hour postural management programme.

#### ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING

- 6.8. The assessment of the service user must incorporate the essential activities of daily living needs and these must be accommodated in terms of ensuring that the service user is able to remain as independent as possible.
- 6.9. The service user's environment must be considered as part of the assessment to ensure that they have the ability to move around their accommodation.

#### ABILITY TO USE WHEELCHAIR SAFELY

- 6.10. In the event a manual wheelchair is required, the requirements of the carer must be considered. Where there are concerns the Wheelchair and Posture Service reserves the right to seek consent to contact the carer's GP. A lightweight wheelchair may be issued in exceptional cases where this is an identified need for the carer.
- 6.11. The wheelchair supplied must be appropriate to the service user's environment, allowing the service user to use, or operate, the wheelchair safely in their home. This must for part of the assessment.