

## Criteria for the Provision of Attendant Controlled Electrically Powered Outdoor Wheelchairs (EPAC)

Patients and their attendants must meet all the following criteria to be eligible for the provision of an attendant controlled electrically powered outdoor wheelchair:-

### Patient criteria

- 1) for medical reasons, be severely and permanently restricted in mobility (see note 1)
- 2) be unable to walk; (see note 1)
- 3) be unable to propel a manual wheelchair; (see notes 1 and 2)

NOTE 1: Inability to walk or propel a manual wheelchair relates to inability to walk / propel within a room and to access essential domestic home environments, e.g. bedroom, kitchen, bathroom, front door, communal dining etc.

This applies to domestic environments including sheltered housing for independent living but does not apply to Care Homes, where staff are available to assist this mobility,

NOTE 2: For a small number of patients, it may be inadvisable on medical grounds to manually propel a wheelchair, e.g. because of increased susceptibility of upper limbs to injury.

- 4) The patient requires the wheelchair for outdoor use

NOTE 3: EPACs are not provided only for use indoors, such as within schools nursing homes, etc

NOTE 4: EPACs are not provided for outdoor mobility which would be achieved more effectively by car, taxi, or bus, etc.

- 5) The patient must have a residential and local outside environment which is compatible with the use of an EPAC, and which includes accessible storage, with power for a battery charger.
- 6) The quality of life of the patient must be significantly improved by the provision of an attendant controlled powered outdoor wheelchair.

NOTE 5: EPACs are not provided for occasional use (i.e. less than once per week)

### Attendant criteria

For the purposes of this document, the attendant is defined as the one person identified as the primary carer responsible for carrying out the day to day care of the patient.

NOTE 6: EPACs are not provided primarily for use by staff of care home and similar establishments.

- 7) The attendant is incapable of propelling the patient in an attendant propelled manual wheelchair suitable for the needs of the patient for reasons such as one of the following:
  - a) the patient is over 18 stone weight (115kg) and the weight difference between the attendant and the patient plus wheelchair is greater than 6 stone (38kg)
  - b) the patient's manual wheelchair would require a configuration which is inherently difficult to propel (e.g. extended wheelbase, forwards position of centre of gravity)
  - c) the patient's manual wheelchair inherently would be heavy to propel (e.g. heavy seating systems, heavy, medical equipment essential to life, etc)
- 8) The attendant must be capable of walking whilst controlling a powered chair to local facilities to which the patient may reasonably expect to have access.

- 9) The attendant must be able to comply with DVLA requirements for motor vehicle drivers concerning epilepsy and other causes of loss of consciousness.
- 10) The attendant must have visual acuity of at least 6/24 (can read a car number plate at 40 feet) and have a field vision of 120° in a horizontal plane and 20° above and below this plane (equivalent to class 3 vehicle vision requirements of the Highway Code).
- 11) The attendant must be able to demonstrate that they have the insight, intellectual capacity and dexterity to be able to control an EPAC safely and responsibly. This will require a practical assessment.
- 12) The attendant must be able to ensure that the EPAC will be maintained adequately (charging, battery inspection etc).
- 13) The patient and attendant must agree that their needs and the wheelchair provided may be reviewed on a regular basis and that the EPAC may be withdrawn or changed if a review reveals changes in the patient's or attendant's ability to meet any of the above criteria.
- 14) The quality of life of the attendant must be significantly improved by the provision of an attendant controlled powered outdoor wheelchair.

NOTE 7: EPACs are not provided for occasional use (i.e. less than once per week)