

Criteria for the Provision of Indoor/Outdoor Powered Wheelchairs (EPIOC)

Patients must meet all the following criteria before they can be considered to be eligible for provision of an Indoor/Outdoor Powered Wheelchair. They must:

1. for medical reasons, be severely and permanently restricted in mobility
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. have no problems with visual, cognitive, visuo-spatial or other higher cortical functions or other medical conditions, which would make them a danger to themselves, pedestrians or other road users;
5. have the ability to comply with the DVLA requirements for motor vehicle drivers concerning epilepsy and other causes of loss of consciousness;
6. 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);
7. undergo the training relevant to their use of an EPIOC and have demonstrated in a practical assessment and by other means that they have the insight, intellectual capacity and dexterity to operate an EPIOC safely and responsibly on their own and without assistance.
8. have a residential environment which is compatible with the use of an EPIOC, and which includes a storage area with a power supply for a battery charger.
9. have a local outside environment which is accessible by an EPIOC and compatible with its use (including static and dynamic stability);
10. be able to ensure that an EPIOC will be maintained adequately either personally or by a carer;
11. have the capacity to derive significant improvement in their independence and quality of life through use of an EPIOC;
12. agree that the provision may be reviewed on a regular basis and that the EPIOC may be withdrawn or changed if a review reveals changes in the patient's ability to meet any of the above criteria.