

PERSONAL WHEELCHAIR BUDGETS

For more information visit: www.personalhealthbudgets.england.nhs.uk

What are Personal Wheelchair Budgets?

Personal Wheelchair Budgets (PWB) aim to provide a wider choice for wheelchair users.

During your assessment you will work in partnership with a clinician to identify your needs and any outcomes you want to achieve with your wheelchair. You will then be prescribed an NHS wheelchair and be told the cost of this provision. This is your Personal Wheelchair Budget.

There are three types of Personal Wheelchair Budget available to you: Notional, Third Party, and Combined.

Notional Personal Wheelchair Budget

Notional means that no money changes hands, but a personalised conversation has still taken place. Millbrook will assess you and help you acquire your wheelchair, but your wheelchair remains the property of the NHS and we would meet the cost of the maintenance and repairs.



Third Party Personal Wheelchair Budget

You will be given the same value as your prescribed wheelchair together with a one off agreed payment to cover repair and maintenance costs.

Should you wish to choose an alternative from an NHS approved list, you or an alternate agency will need to pay any additional costs. We will send an invoice for the amount that you need to pay.

It will then be your responsibility to order your own chair via an approved supplier and organise repairs for it. The wheelchair you choose will have to meet your mobility and postural needs and be in the same category as the chair prescribed for you e.g. manual, powered indoor, powered indoor/outdoor etc. This wheelchair is your property and your responsibility.

Combined Personal Wheelchair Budget

Under this scheme you can have a notional wheelchair budget and make a contribution towards the cost of an alternate feature outside of our current agreed range. The NHS will purchase your wheelchair and you will be responsible for funding the additional elements.

The NHS will still own the chair and will carry out repairs and maintenance. However, Millbrook would be unable to repair or replace any additional features you have upgraded to (such as hub brakes or seat risers) – you or voluntary sector funds will have to meet this cost. All of the normal conditions of loan will apply.

The Hertfordshire Wheelchair service is provided by:

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How long does the scheme last and what if I want to change my wheelchair?

Equipment is typically provided for a period of five years, but under certain circumstances a change to the length may be considered.

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. This will be discussed with your Wheelchair Therapist at your next assessment.

Who can access a Personal Wheelchair Budget (PWB)?

During assessment you will be advised if you are eligible for the scheme.

If you are under 18 or have a deteriorating medical condition and are likely to have frequent changes to your wheelchair requirements, it may not be appropriate for you to have a Third Party or Combined PWB, but you could still have a Notional PWB. With NHS provision we can support your needs as your condition changes.

How do I get a Personal Wheelchair Budget?

Your assessor will talk to you at your assessment about the PWB and together a personal wheelchair support plan can be completed.

Can I just go ahead and buy the wheelchair?

The Wheelchair Service needs to approve your choice before purchase. Budgets cannot be issued retrospectively i.e. you cannot buy a chair and then ask for your PWB.

What if my wheelchair costs less than the Third party Budget offered to me?

In this case the NHS would keep the surplus in a fund for repair and maintenance of your

wheelchair. You can present receipts for repairs and this will be paid to you out of the fund until it is used up.

Can I buy pressure relieving cushions?

Pressure relieving cushions, postural seating and special seating are provided by the NHS. Your chosen wheelchair must be compatible with the accessories to be provided.

What is not included in the scheme?

Second-hand wheelchairs, scooters and trikes cannot be bought with either the third party or notional Budget.

The wheelchair you choose must be crash worthy; exceptions apply in some categories of wheelchairs. Your clinician can discuss this with you as required.

How long do I have to access my PWB?

Following your assessment and agreement to access your PWB you have six months to redeem the budget against your chosen wheelchair. Any request after this time would require reassessment.

How do I choose a wheelchair with the third party budget option?

You will need to contact an approved supplier who accepts the PWB scheme and give them your wheelchair specification. Any wheelchair you choose must meet this specification.

How do I get my wheelchair repaired or maintained?

If you bought your chair with a Notional PWB you can contact Millbrook Healthcare for all repairs

If you used the third party budget you are responsible for arranging and paying for all repairs and maintenance. An amount for this is included in the Budget value.

Contacting the Wheelchair Service in Hertfordshire

Millbrook Healthcare, Unit J Swiftfields, Watchmead
Welwyn Garden City AL7 1LT

Email hertswcs@millbrookhealthcare.co.uk

Telephone: 0333 234 0303

Fax: 0333 234 0313



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