MEDICAL POLICY

Medical Policy Title	**Wheelchairs and Power Operated Vehicles (POVs)**
Policy Number	**1.01.16**
Current Effective Date	**January 1, 2027**
Next Review Date	**August 2027**

Our medical policies are guides to evaluate technologies or services for medical necessity. Criteria are established through the assessment of evidence based, peer-reviewed scientific literature, and national professional guidelines. Federal and state law(s), regulatory mandates and the member's subscriber contract language are considered first in the determination of a covered service.
(Link to Product Disclaimer)

POLICY STATEMENT(S)

I. Wheelchairs are considered **medically appropriate** when used by an individual for mobility in the performance of activities of daily living in their residence. (See Policy Guidelines for additional criteria for non-standard wheelchairs and mobility devices.)

II. Power operated vehicles (POV's) are considered **medically appropriate** when an individual meets coverage criteria for a wheelchair, is unable to self-propel a manual wheelchair, and is cognitively and physically able to operate a POV.

III. Wheelchairs are considered **not medically necessary** in **ANY** of the following circumstances:

- A. When used primarily for comfort or convenience;
- B. When used primarily for transportation outside the home, except for dependent children who require a wheelchair to attend school;
- C. When used for sports or recreational purposes.

IV. Wheelchairs with stair climbing ability (e.g., iBOT) are considered **not medically necessary**.

Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Repair

V. Repair of a medically appropriate wheelchair and power operated vehicle or components not under warranty will be considered **medically appropriate** when the following criteria are met:

- A. Physician documentation includes **ALL** the following:
  1. date of DME initiation;
  2. manufacturer warranty information, if applicable;
  3. attestation that the patient has been compliant with the use of the DME and will continue to benefit from the use of the DME;
- B. The DME is no longer functioning adequately; and **BOTH** of the following criteria are met:
  1. inadequate function interferes with activities of daily living; **and**
  2. repair is expected to make the equipment fully functional (as defined by manufacturer).

VI. Repair of equipment damaged due to Patient's neglect, theft, abuse, or when another available

coverage source is an option (e.g., homeowners, rental, auto, liability insurance, etc.) is **ineligible for coverage**.

DME Replacement

VII. Replacement of a medically appropriate wheelchair and power operated vehicle or components not under warranty will be considered **medically appropriate** when **EITHER** of the following criteria are met:

A. The DME is no longer functioning adequately and has been determined to be non-repairable, or the cost of the repair is in excess of the replacement cost;

B. There is documentation that a change in the patient's condition makes the present unit non-functional and improvement is expected with a replacement unit.

VIII. The replacement of a properly functioning wheelchair and power-operated vehicle, its components or accessories is considered **not medically necessary**. This includes, but is not limited to, replacement desired due to advanced technology or to make the DME more aesthetically pleasing;

IX. The replacement of equipment damaged or lost due to patient neglect, theft, abuse, or when another available coverage source is an option (e.g., homeowners, rental, auto, liability insurance, etc.) is **ineligible for coverage**.

X. Accessories or components for wheelchairs and power operated vehicles that are considered not medically necessary or investigational by peer-reviewed literature will also be considered as **not medically necessary or investigational** by the Health Plan.

RELATED POLICIES

Corporate Medical Policy

1.01.00 Durable Medical Equipment- Standard and Non-Standard

1.01.46 Standing Devices

11.01.11 Comfort, Convenience, and Custodial

POLICY GUIDELINE(S)

I. Supporting Documentation Required

Coverage of wheelchairs and accessories/special features requires documentation of **medical necessity** by the individual's practitioner. Documentation must be submitted for review and must include the individual's diagnosis, a narrative description with functional criteria for the wheelchair and any requested non-standard features. At a minimum, such documentation must include:

A. Diagnosis, prognosis and severity of condition;

B. Seating and mobility evaluation by a trained professional familiar with seating, positioning and wheeled mobility options taking into account the current functional abilities and

disabilities of the individual as well as potential long-term needs. The Health Plan reserves the right to require an assessment for a requested mobility device to be performed on the individual by an independent rehabilitation specialist, therapist, or equipment specialist;

C. Assessment of the home environment for wheelchair accessibility and the ability to accommodate any special equipment, positioning devices or motorized component (e.g., door frame size) if requested;

D. If a motorized wheelchair is requested an explanation as to why a standard wheelchair is inadequate for the particular activity of daily living; and

E. Relevant medical records.

II. Coverage will be provided for one manual wheelchair, one motorized wheelchair, or one scooter.

III. More than one mobility device is considered a matter of convenience for the member and their family.

IV. No coverage for a back-up wheelchair will be provided except that a one-month rental will be covered if the owned wheelchair is being repaired.

V. A wheelchair must be appropriate for the individual's disability, size, weight, activity, and for the home environment.

VI. For individuals residing at a residential facility and receiving custodial care services (custodial care status), wheelchairs are **eligible for coverage** when criteria are met.

VII. For individuals temporarily residing in a residential facility and receiving skilled services (skilled status), coverage of wheelchairs is considered global to the skilled nursing facility (SNF) reimbursement.

Wheelchair Features and Coverage Criteria

VIII. The following is a list of characteristics and additional coverage criteria for various models of wheelchairs.

Model/Description	**Coverage Criteria**	**Non-Coverage Criteria**
Standard -Manual Wt: greater than 36 lbs Seat width: 16-18" Seat depth: 16" Seat height: equal or greater than 19" or equal or less than 21" Back height: 16-17" Arm style: fixed or detachable	1. Individual has impaired mobility in performance of mobility-related activities of daily living (MRADL's) in the home which would be alleviated by the mobility device; **and** 2. Individual is able to self-propel a wheelchair; **and** 3. Individual's mobility	Used solely for social, recreational or employment activities.

Model/Description	Coverage Criteria	Non-Coverage Criteria
	limitation cannot be resolved by use of an appropriately fitted assistive device (e.g., cane or walker); **or** 4. Individual has a medical condition for which weight-bearing or ambulation is contraindicated; **or** 5. Individual has a disease process or injury that precludes use of lower extremities.	
Hemi - Manual Wt: greater than 36 lbs Seat width: 16-18” Seat depth: 16” Seat height: 17-18” Back height: 16-17” Arm style: fixed or detachable Enables short in stature individual to place feet on ground for propulsion.	1. Individual meets criteria for a standard manual wheelchair; **and** 2. Unable to propel a manual wheelchair with upper extremities; **or** 3. Has paralysis in one arm or leg and is able to self-propel a manual wheelchair.	Used solely for social, recreational or employment activities.
Lightweight - Manual Wt: equal or less than 36 lbs Seat width: 16-18” Seat depth: 16” Seat height: equal or greater than 17” or equal or less than 21” Back height: 16-17” Arm style: fixed or detachable	1. Individual meets criteria for a standard manual wheelchair; **and** 2. Is unable to self-propel a standard manual wheelchair.	Used solely for social, recreational or employment activities.
Ultra lightweight - Manual Wt: less than 34 lbs Seat width: 14 - 18” Seat depth: 14 - 16” Seat height: equal or greater than 17” or equal or less than	1. Individual meets criteria for a standard manual wheelchair; **and** 2. Is unable to self-propel in standard or lightweight manual wheelchair.	1. Used solely for social, recreational or employment activities; **or** 2. Titanium frame has marginal weight advantage over aluminum frame;

Model/Description	Coverage Criteria	Non-Coverage Criteria
21” Back height: 15-19” Arm style: fixed or detachable		considered not medically necessary.
Full or Semi-reclining-Manual Wt: less than 30 lbs. Seat width: 14-18” Seat depth: 14 - 16” Seat height: equal or greater than 17” or equal or less than 21” Back height: varies Arm style: fixed or detachable	1. Individual meets criteria for a standard manual wheelchair except may not be able to self-propel manual wheelchair; **and** 2. Any of the following are met: a. Is quadriplegic/ tetraplegic; **or** b. has trunk or lower extremity cast; **or** c. has braces that require special positioning; **or** d. has fixed hip angle; **or** e. has excess extensor tone of the trunk muscles; **or** f. has prior history of skin breakdown.	1. Used solely for social, recreational or employment activities; **or** 2. Used for prophylaxis of sacral decubiti without a prior history of skin breakdown.
Tilt in space - Manual Lightweight wheelchairs Custom designed frames which allow the position of the wheelchair to change.	1. Individual meets criteria for a standard manual wheelchair except may not be able to self-propel manual wheelchair; **and** 2. Individual: a. has fixed hip angle; **or** b. has excess extensor tone of the trunk muscles; **or** c. has cerebral palsy; **or** d. has spinal cord injuries.	Individual has bladder-emptying problems or wears a leg bag (bladder may be constricted, leg bag may leak).

Model/Description	Coverage Criteria	Non-Coverage Criteria
Heavy Duty - Manual Wt: varies Seat width: 18” Seat depth: 16 - 17” Seat height: equal or greater than 19” or equal or less than 21” Back height: 16-17” Arm style: fixed or detachable Includes reinforced back and seat upholstery.	1. Individual meets criteria for a standard manual wheelchair; **and** 2. Individual weighs greater than 250 lbs.	Used solely for social, recreational or employment activities.
Extra Heavy Duty - Manual Wt: greater than 36 lbs Seat width: 16-18” Seat depth: 16” Seat height: equal or greater than 19” or equal or less than 21” Back height: 16-17” Arm style: fixed or detachable Includes reinforced back and seat upholstery.	1. Individual meets criteria for a standard manual wheelchair; **and** 2. Individual weighs greater than 300 lbs.	Used solely for social, recreational or employment activities.
Wide Heavy Duty- Manual Wt: varies Seat width: greater than 18” Seat depth: 16 - 17” Seat height: equal or greater than 19” or equal or less than 21” Back height: 16-17” Arm style: fixed or detachable	1. Individual meets criteria for a standard manual wheelchair; **and** 2. Individual’s hip width is greater than 18 inches.	Used solely for social, recreational or employment activities.
Motorized Wheelchairs Used in severe impairment of functional mobility. Without the use of the wheelchair, the individual would be severely	1. Individual meets criteria for a standard manual wheelchair; **and** 2. Is unable to maneuver a manual wheelchair for a	1. Use as convenience item. 2. When used primarily for transportation to work, shopping, social or recreational activities, to

Model/Description	Coverage Criteria	Non-Coverage Criteria
limited or unable to perform routine ADLs. Inability to safely propel a manual wheelchair due to severely limited upper extremity function.	distance greater than 25 feet; **and** 3. Has upper extremity impairment and cannot self-propel a manual wheelchair; **and** 4. Is able to safely operate a power operated wheelchair; **and** 5. Is expected to continue to need for the motorized wheelchair greater than six weeks.	facilitate employment, or for other activities outside the domicile/home. 3. Individual can self-propel from room to room in the home. 4. Caregiver is available and can propel the individual; **or** 5. K0868-K0886 are considered **NMN** due to features that are not necessary for in home use.
Motorized Wheelchairs – Pediatric Used in severe impairment of functional mobility. Without the use of the wheelchair, the individual would be severely limited or unable to perform routine ADLs. Inability to safely propel a manual wheelchair due to severely limited upper extremity function. Inability of the caregiver to safely propel a manual wheelchair.	1. Individual meets criteria for a standard manual wheelchair; **and** 2. Is able to safely operate a power operated wheelchair as determined by an appropriate developmental evaluation; **and** 3. Is expected to continue need for the motorized wheelchair for greater than (6) six weeks.	1. Individual cannot safely operate the power operated wheelchair due to lack of developed cognitive and motor skills; 2. Caregiver is available and can propel the individual; 3. Individual can self-propel from room to room in the home; 4. When used primarily for transportation to shopping, social or recreational activities, or for other activities outside the domicile/home; **or** 5. Use as convenience item.
Power Operated Vehicle Electrically operated three or four wheeled chair or scooter designed to transport an individual that is unable to ambulate but has adequate trunk stability to be able to ride safely in the vehicle.	1. Individual meets criteria for a standard manual wheelchair; **and** 2. Is unable to maneuver a manual wheelchair for a distance greater than 25 feet; **and** 3. Is able to safely transfer in and out of POV and have adequate trunk stability to	1. Use as convenience item; **or** 2. Individual has inadequate trunk stability to ride safely; **or** 3. Individual is disoriented or cannot be left unattended; **or** 4. Individual is unable to operate controls; **or** 5. Use as back-up item; **or**

Model/Description	Coverage Criteria	Non-Coverage Criteria
	ride safely in the vehicle; **and** 4. Has a condition that is non-progressive; POV may be provided in lieu of motorized wheelchair if the POV meets the needs of the individual and is a more cost-efficient alternative; **and** 5. Disability is expected to continue for greater than six months.	6. Purchased without a prescription; **or** 7. K0806-K0808 are considered **NMN** due to features that are not necessary for in home use.
Rollabout/Transport Chairs May also be called a mobile geriatric chair (geri-chair). Front and back wheels the same size.	1. Individual meets criteria for a standard manual wheelchair except may not be able to self-propel manual wheelchair; **and** 2. It is used as primary means of transport in the home.	Used solely for social, recreational or employment activities.
Pediatric Stroller	1. Child is non-ambulatory; **and** 2. Stroller is used to transport child to and from school; **and** 3. Child requires more support than is available in a standard pediatric wheelchair; **or** 4. Child is too small to safely use a standard pediatric wheelchair; **or** 5. Commercially available stroller is inadequate to meet the child's needs.	Not Applicable

IX. The following is a list of special features, accessories, and customizations with coverage criteria. This list is not all- inclusive.

Feature/ Description	Coverage Criteria	Non-Coverage Criteria
Adjustable Arm-height option	1. Individual spends at least two hours per day in a wheelchair; **and** 2. Individual needs arm height	Not Applicable

Feature / Description	Coverage Criteria	Non-Coverage Criteria
	that is different from standard non-adjustable arms.	
Anti-roll Back or Anti-tip Device Prevents tipping or wheelchair ability to independently raise front wheels when accessing inclines.	Individual propels either a manual wheelchair or power operated wheelchair up ramps/inclines.	Not Applicable
Arm Support / Trough Stabilizes the arm.	Individual has quadriplegia/ tetraplegia, or hemiplegia, or uncontrolled arm movements.	Not Applicable
Attendant Drive Control Allows the caregiver to drive the wheelchair instead of the individual.	Not Applicable	Convenience item
Battery Charger Single mode included with power wheelchair base.	Not Applicable	Dual mode battery charger is a convenience item.
Caster Tires Pneumatic or semi-pneumatic -provides shock absorption from outdoor and rough surfaces. Solid core - used on smooth surfaces and indoors (flat-free).	Not Applicable	Castor tires with lights are considered a convenience item.
Chin Control/Support	Individual has weak neck muscles.	Not Applicable
Clothing / Side Guards Protects clothing from dirt, mud or water thrown up by the wheels.	Not Applicable	Convenience item (used for outside the home).
Custom Manual/Power Wheelchair Base Frame has been customized to	Individual requires a wheelchair base that is not an available	Not Applicable

Feature / Description	Coverage Criteria	Non-Coverage Criteria
a specific individual.	option in an already manufactured base.	
Elevating Leg Rests – Manual or Power Allows the leg to be raised and lowered independently of the recline and/or tilt of the seating system. Power leg elevation for use with a Power Wheelchair. Articulating (telescoping) power elevating leg rests lengthen while also extending the knee.	1. Musculoskeletal condition or presence of cast or brace that prevents 9- degree flexion of the knee; **or** 2. Significant edema of the lower extremities; **or** 3. Has a reclining back on a wheelchair.	Not Applicable
Controller- Integral or Modular - Power Controller function allows the individual to operate the power wheelchair. The following are types of controller functions: • Proportional interface, the individual controls the direction and speed of the wheelchair based on the input given (e.g., standard joystick). • Non-proportional interface is a step-based control system that does not provide continuous, analog speed control (e.g., sip and puff control). • Integral controller has a single housing unit with joystick and motor control module; may be standard.	Inability to operate a manual or power wheelchair. *Integral controller for individuals who will have little or no change in functional status and need no special control features in their wheelchair. *Modular controller for individuals who need enhanced functions such as sip and puff, head array, power seating systems.	Additional modules for the Q-logic Control System (e.g., environmental controls) are considered a convenience item.

Feature / Description	Coverage Criteria	Non-Coverage Criteria
(e.g., remote plus electronic system). • Modular controllers have separate components for different functions. Able to mix and match components to accommodate function enhancers. (e.g., Q-logic Control System).		
Fully Reclining / Folding Back- Manual	1. individual is quadriplegic; **or** 2. Has trunk or lower extremity cast/braces that require special positioning; **or** 3. Has fixed hip angle; **or** 4. Has excess extensor tone of the trunk muscle; **or** 5. Has prior history of skin breakdown; **or** 6. Utilizes intermittent catheterization for bladder management and is unable to independently transfer from the wheelchair to bed; **or** 7. Is unable to carry out a functional weight shift due to spinal cord disease, neurological disease, childhood cerebral degeneration, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease.	1. Convenience item if purpose is for transport only; **or** 2. Used for prophylaxis of sacral decubiti.
Head Rest (Not included in power tilt and recline or power recline seating system.)	1. Individual meets criteria for manual tilt-in-space; **or** 2. Manual semi- or fully reclining back; **or** 3. Power tilt and or recline seating system.	Considered **NMN** on a Power Wheelchair with a Captain's seat.
Miscellaneous Accessories		

Feature/ Description	Coverage Criteria	Non-Coverage Criteria
Amputee adapter, heel loops, IV rod, narrowing device, oxygen carrier, ventilator tray, speech generative device table, suspension fork, wide stance arm bracket, leg straps, footrests, back straps, additional pads for hips, arms, or legs.	May be considered medically necessary based on individual consideration when adequate documentation is provided.	Not Applicable
Miscellaneous Accessories (Non-Covered) Trays, back packs, crutch or cane holder, shock absorbers, impact guards, lighting systems any option or accessory that is primarily for the purpose of allowing the member to perform leisure, recreation or sports activities, electrical or mechanical features that enhance basic equipment and that usually serve a convenience function.	Not Applicable	Convenience items
Upholstery - Reinforced Back or Seat Not standard with power wheelchair base.	Individual weighs more than 200 lbs.	1. Should be included with heavy duty or extra heavy-duty wheelchair base; **or** 2. If used in conjunction with other manual wheelchair bases.
Push/ Hand Rims/ Handles A wheel attachment that helps users self-propel without pushing directly on the hand rim. (e.g., Natural Fit hand rims providing ergonomic grip and greater control when breaking).	Pain in hands from pushing standard hand rims or tires.	Not designed for individuals with poor hand function.

Feature / Description	Coverage Criteria	Non-Coverage Criteria
Power add-ons / Push Activated System Provides additional power boost to wheels upon the users input force on the push rims.	Based on individual consideration when adequate documentation provided.	Not Applicable
Safety Belt / Shoulder Harness, Structured Harness Allows for proper positioning.	1. Weak upper body muscles; **or** 2. Individual has upper body instability or muscle spasticity.	Not Applicable
Seat Cushion or Back Cushion General Use: Prefabricated cushion made of foam, flexible cellular material, air fluid or solid gel. Skin Protection: Composed of foam, flexible cellular material, air, fluid or solid gel or a multi-compartment air cushion or composed of two or more types of foam with different stiffness. Positioning: Composed of foam, flexible cellular material, air, fluid and supporting structural features.	1. Individual spends at least two (2) hours per day in a wheelchair; **and** 2. History of, or current pressure ulcer on area of contact with seating surface; 3. Absent or impaired sensation in area of contact with seating surface; **or** 4. Unable to carry out a functional weight shift due to spinal cord disease, neurological disease, childhood cerebral degeneration, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease; **or** 5. Significant postural asymmetries due to spinal cord injury/disease, demyelinating disease, neurological diseases, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, hemiplegia due to stroke, traumatic brain injury.	1. Individual does not have a wheelchair. 2. Use with transport chair (comfort item); **or** 3. Individual cannot reposition self at least every two hours (seat cushion will not prevent development of pressure ulcers).
Seat or Back Cushion - Custom Fabricated Has removable waterproof	1. Meets criteria for skin protection seat or positioning	Not Applicable

Feature / Description	Coverage Criteria	Non-Coverage Criteria
cover or surface.	seat cushion; **and** 2. Explanation from health care profession why this type of cushion is necessary.	
Seat Cushion - Powered Battery operated, prefabricated cushion powered by an air pump to cause the cushion to inflate and deflate.	Not Applicable	Considered **investigational** as its effectiveness has not been established.
Seat and Back Cushions - Replacement	1. Considered when out of warranty; **or** 2. Irreparably damaged (other than wear and tear); **or** 3. Item is lost or stolen; **or** 4. A change in member's medical condition that requires a different type of seating or positioning item.	Not Applicable
Seating System Ensures optimal posture and positioning. Consists of: • Seat, • Back, and • Supports. Four different types: 1. Sling – minimal support; 2. Planar – flat surface without contours – firm support. For individuals with no pelvis/spinal deformities. 3. Contoured – postural support and pressure relief (e.g., Synergy, TruComfort, Jay Fit for pediatric individuals). 4. Custom Contoured-	Based on individual consideration when adequate documentation provided.	Not Applicable

Feature / Description	Coverage Criteria	Non-Coverage Criteria
conforms to shape of pelvis and spine. Provides maximum support and pressure distribution.		
Seat Elevation- Power Raises and lowers the individual in their seated position by the use of an electro-mechanical lift system, without changing the seated angles or the seat's angle relative to the ground, in order to provide varying amounts of added vertical access. A seat elevator may elevate vertically from a standard seat height or may lower the user closer to the floor.	Not Applicable	Convenience item
Stander Attachment- Power Individual requires assistance to assume standing position and has some residual muscular strength in legs, such that standing will improve lower body strength.	Not Applicable	No evidence that power stander improves lower body strength for individuals who are completely paralyzed in the legs and hips.
Tilt or Recline Seating Systems - Manual / Power Designed to reduce the weight placed on a person's coccyx (tailbone) and buttocks. Disperses weight evenly over the buttocks and legs. Tilting backwards shifts weight off the buttocks and legs while maintaining a normal sitting posture.	1. Individual is quadriplegic; **or** 2. Has trunk or lower extremity cast/braces that require specially positioning; **or** 3. Has fixed hip angle; **or** 4. Has excess extensor tone of the trunk muscle; **or** 5. Has prior history of skin breakdown; **or** 6. Significant edema of lower extremities; **or** 7. Utilizes intermittent catheterization for bladder	Used for prophylaxis of sacral decubiti.

Feature / Description	Coverage Criteria	Non-Coverage Criteria
	management and is unable to independently transfer from the wheelchair to bed; **or** 8. Is unable to carry out a functional weight shift due to spinal cord disease, neurological disease, childhood cerebral degeneration, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease.	
Swing Away, Retractable or Removable Leg Rests/ Hardware	If needed for individual to perform a slide transfer to a chair or bed.	1. If primary use is to allow individual to move closer to desks or other surfaces; **and** 2. Should be considered part of the wheelchair base.
Transport Tie Down Keeps chair stabilized when traveling. Usually, an addition to the transport vehicle rather than to the wheelchair.	Covered for pediatric individuals if wheelchair is used to transport to and from school.	Considered a convenience item for adults.
Wheelchair Tires Specially designed tires which may be more lightweight, narrower, have custom rims or be "flat-free". May be used for sports or recreational activities. Pneumatic: air filled: lightweight provides cushioned ride. Semi-pneumatic: possible problematic maintenance. Flat-free: standard tires filled with polyfoam.	Not Applicable	1. Used for sports or recreational purpose; **or** 2. Snow tires (convenience item).

DESCRIPTION

A wheelchair is a manually operated or power-driven device designed for use by an individual with a mobility disability for the purpose of locomotion. Traditional wheelchairs have a seat that is

positioned between two large wheels with two smaller wheels at the front. Manual wheelchairs can be self-propelled or pushed by another individual.

Power Operated Vehicles (POVs), commonly known as mobility scooters and power wheelchairs, are electric mobility devices designed to assist individuals with mobility challenges. Powered wheelchairs are battery operated and can be controlled through electronic switches.

See Policy Guidelines for further descriptions of specific DME.

Comfort

Items and/or services that do not contribute meaningfully to the treatment of an illness or injury or the functioning of a malformed body member (except for hospice care) are defined as comfort items. Devices or equipment deemed presumptively non-medical and considered to be comfort items include, but are not limited to, environmental control devices (heaters, air conditioners, humidifiers, dehumidifiers, and electric air cleaners), physical fitness equipment, first aid supplies, and precautionary equipment (e.g., safety grab bars, training equipment, etc.).

Convenience

Items and/or services that do not contribute meaningfully to the treatment of an illness or injury or the functioning of a malformed body member (except for hospice care) AND that are primarily for the convenience of the patient and/or the caregiver are classified as convenience items. Examples of convenience items include, but are not limited to elevators, stairway elevators (stair lifts), ergonomic chairs, ramps, and home or car adaptive equipment.

Custodial

Custodial care refers to routine maintenance or supportive care that does not require the services of trained and skilled professional personnel.

Custodial care and/or services are primarily intended to assist an individual with personal care activities, including but not limited to, walking, transferring in and out of bed, bathing, dressing, feeding, toileting, meal preparation, and supervision of medications that can be self-administered and do not require the ongoing attention of trained medical or paramedical personnel.

In determining whether a person is receiving custodial care, the patient's medical record is reviewed, using established criteria, and consideration is given to the level of care and medical supervision required and furnished.

SUPPORTIVE LITERATURE

This policy is based upon Health Plan contract benefits and is intended to clarify those benefits.

PROFESSIONAL GUIDELINE(S)

Not Applicable

REGULATORY STATUS

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates Various wheelchairs and Power Operated

Vehicles as medical devices. All [device] including related components require FDA approval before marketing and use in the United States to ensure they are safe and effective for human use. Refer to the FDA Medical Device website. Available from: https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices [accessed 2026 Jun 25]

The FDA lists the most serious type of medical device recalls as well as early alert communications about corrective actions being taken by companies that the FDA believes are likely to be the most serious type of recalls. Available from: Medical Device Recalls | FDA [accessed 2026 Jun 25]

CODE(S)

- Codes may not be covered under all circumstances.
- Code list may not be all inclusive (AMA and CMS code updates may occur more frequently than policy updates).
- (E/I)=Experimental/Investigational
- (NMN)=Not medically necessary/appropriate

CPT Codes

Code	Description
Not Applicable	

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HCPCS Codes

Code	Description
Wheelchairs	
E1031	Rollabout wheelchair, any and all types with casters 5 in or greater
E1038	Transport chair, adult size, patient weight capacity less than 300 pounds
E1050 E1060 E1070	Fully reclining wheelchairs
E1083 E1084 E1085 E1086	Standard hemi (low seat) wheelchair
E1087 E1088 E1089 E1090	High strength, lightweight wheelchair

Code	Description
E1092 E1093 E1280-E1295 K0006	Heavy duty wheelchair
E1100 E1110	Semi-reclining wheelchairs
E1130-E1160	Standard wheelchair
E1161	Manual adult size wheelchair, includes tilt in space
E1170-E1200	Amputee wheelchairs
K0011	Standard–weight frame motorized/power wheelchair with programmable control parameters for speed adjustment, tremor dampening, acceleration control and braking
E1220-E1228	Other manual wheelchair/base or accessories
E1229	Wheelchair, pediatric size, not otherwise specified
E1230	Power operated vehicle (three- or four-wheel non-highway), specify brand name and model number
E1231-1234	Wheelchair, pediatric size, tilt-in-space, rigid, adjustable, with or without seating system
E1235-1238	Wheelchair, pediatric size, rigid or folding, adjustable, with or without seating system
E1239	Power wheelchair, pediatric size, not otherwise specified
E1240-E1270 K0003	Lightweight wheelchair
K0001	Standard wheelchair
K0002	Standard hemi (low seat) wheelchair
K0004	High strength, lightweight wheelchair
K0005	Ultralightweight wheelchair
K0007	Extra heavy-duty wheelchair
K0008	Custom Manual Wheelchair Base
K0009	Other manual wheelchair/base
K0010	Standard-weight frame motorized/power wheelchair

Code	Description
K0012	Lightweight portable motorized/power wheelchair
K0013	Custom Motorized/Power Wheelchair Base
K0014	Other motorized/power wheelchair base
K0800-K0898	Power operated vehicles/wheelchairs
Options / Accessories	
E0953 E0954	Lateral thigh support; footbox; including hardware
E0955 E0966	Headrest, headrest extension
E0971	Manual wheelchair accessory, antitipping device, each
E1012	Wheelchair accessory, addition to power seating system, center mount power elevating leg rest/platform, complete system, any type, each
E1022	Wheelchair transportation securement system, any type includes all components and accessories
E1023	Wheelchair transit securement system, includes all components and accessories
E1028	Wheelchair accessory, manual swingaway, retractable or removable mounting hardware, other
E1032	Wheelchair accessory, manual swingaway, retractable or removable mounting hardware used with joystick or other drive control interface
E1033	Wheelchair accessory, manual swingaway, retractable or removable mounting hardware for headrest, cushioned, any type
E1034	Wheelchair accessory, manual swingaway, retractable or removable mounting hardware for lateral trunk or hip support, any type
E1014 E1225-E1226 E2291 E2293 E2398 E2611-E2617 E2619-E2621 K0669	Back of chair

Code	Description
E0973 E0994 K0015 K0017-K0020	Arm of chair
E0968 E0978 E0981 E0992 E1007 E2230 (NMN) E2231 E2292 E2294 E2295 E2601-E2610 K0669	Seat
E2298 (NMN)	Complex rehabilitative power wheelchair accessory, power seat elevation system, any type
E0951 E0952 E0970 E0990 E0995 E1010 K0047 K0050-K0053 K0195	Footrest/Leg rest
E1011 K0056	Seat Width, Depth, Height
E2205	Manual wheelchair accessory, handrim without projections (includes ergonomic or contoured), any type, replacement only, each

Code	Description
E0967	Manual wheelchair accessory, hand rim with projections, any type, replacement only, each
K0065	Spoke protectors, each
K0069	Rear wheel assembly, complete, with solid tire, spokes or molded, replacement only, each
K0070	Rear wheel assembly, complete, with pneumatic tire, spokes or molded, replacement only, each
K0071	Front caster assembly, complete, with pneumatic tire, replacement only, each
K0072	Front caster assembly, complete, with semipneumatic tire, replacement only, each
K0073	Caster pin lock, each
K0077	Front caster assembly, complete, with solid tire, replacement only, each
E2214	Manual wheelchair accessory, pneumatic caster tire, any size, each
E2219	Manual wheelchair accessory, foam caster tire, any size, each
E2220	Manual wheelchair accessory, solid (rubber/plastic) propulsion tire, any size, replacement only, each
E2221	Manual wheelchair accessory, solid (rubber/plastic) caster tire (removable), any size, replacement only, each
E2222	Manual wheelchair accessory, solid (rubber/plastic) caster tire with integrated wheel, any size, replacement only, each
E0961 E0974 E2206	Wheel Lock
E2360-E2367	Batteries/Chargers for Motorized/Power Wheelchairs
E0950	Wheelchair accessory, tray, each
E0950 E0958 E0959 E2368-E2370 K0098	Motorized/Power Wheelchair Parts
E2373-E2377	Power wheelchair accessory control interface/controller
E2381-E2396	Power wheelchair wheel/caster/tire

Code	Description
E0986	Manual wheelchair accessory, push-rim activated power assist system
K0733	Power wheelchair accessory, 12 to 24 amp hour sealed lead acid battery, each (e.g., gel cell, absorbed glassmat)
E0956 E0957 E0969 E1035 K0105 K0108	Miscellaneous Accessories
E0950 E0958 E0959 E2368-E2370 K0098	Motorized/Power Wheelchair Parts

ICD10 Codes

Code	Description
Multiple Codes	

REFERENCES

Rentschler AJ, et al. Evaluation of selected electric-powered wheelchairs using the ANSI/RESNA standards. Arch Phys Med Rehabil. 2004 Apr;85(4):611-9.

Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America [Internet]. Position papers, white papers, and provision guides. RESNA Position on the application of tilt, recline, and elevating leg rests for wheelchairs. Update 2025 Feb. [accessed 2026 Jun 25] Available from: https://www.resna.org/Resources/Position-Papers-and-Service-Provision-Guidelines

United States Dept. of Education. National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research. Grant #H133E990001, Washington. DC.

Worobey LA, et al. RESNA position on the application of ultralight manual wheelchairs. Assist Technol. 2023 Aug 2:1-18.

SEARCH TERMS

Not Applicable

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES (CMS)

Mobility Assistive Equipment (MAE) (NCD 280.3) [accessed 2026 Jun 25]

Manual Wheelchair Bases (LCD L33788) [accessed 2026 Jun 25]

Manual Wheelchair Bases - Policy Article (A52497) [accessed 2026 Jun 25]

Wheelchair Seating (LCD L33312) [accessed 2026 Jun 25]

Wheelchair Seating - Policy Article (A52505) [accessed 2026 Jun 25]

Seat Elevation Equipment (Power Operated) on Power Wheelchairs (NCD 280.16) [accessed 2026 Jun 25]

Wheelchair Options/Accessories (LCD L33792) [accessed 2026 Jun 25]

Power Mobility Devices (LCD L33789) [accessed 2026 Jun 25]

PRODUCT DISCLAIMER

- Services are contract dependent; if a product does not cover a service, medical policy criteria do not apply.
- If a commercial product (including an Essential Plan or Child Health Plus product) covers a specific service, medical policy criteria apply to the benefit.
- If a Medicaid product covers a specific service, and there are no New York State Medicaid guidelines (eMedNY) criteria, medical policy criteria apply to the benefit.
- If a Medicare product covers a specific service, and there is no national or local Medicare coverage decision for the service, medical policy criteria apply to the benefit.

POLICY HISTORY/REVISION

Committee Approval Dates	
01/01/27	
Date	**Summary of Changes**
01/01/27	• Original effective date