**MK Eligibility Criteria Guidelines**

Based on MK service specification [20/03/2018]. Full eligibility criteria are detailed at the end of this guidance.

**General guidelines:**

* Users registered with a GP within MK CCG
* Has a long term mobility need (>6m)
* Unable to functionally mobilise indoors without a wheelchair (note exception for “occasional” users below)
* Full time wheelchair users
  + ie a wheelchair is required to fill all mobility needs
* “Occasional” wheelchair users
  + Long term need for a wheelchair (>6m)
  + Wheelchair is required for >4 days/week as primary means of mobility
* Over 36 months in age unless the child has:
  + Significant postural deformity which cannot be accommodated in a standard supportive buggy
    - eg significant contractions at the hips and knees, significant spinal deformation which cannot be accommodated with adjustable laterals/inserts/etc.
  + Significant comorbidities which require accommodation
    - eg severe spasticity/seizure activity, ventilated, etc

**Power chair provision:**

* Unable to functionally mobilise indoors with a standard self-propelling wheelchair
* Does not have medication or medical conditions which would contraindicate power chair provision
* Indoor environment is suitable for power chair provision
* Is able to pass appropriate power chair driving assessment(s)

**Short term loans:**

Short term loans are usually required for less than 6 months and will be available for exceptional circumstances i.e. to aid discharge or to support end stages of life

* Terminal/end of life (ie <6 months to live, has a DS1500 or equivalent form)
* To support discharge where CES equipment is not available and the person cannot be discharged home in any other way (ie via stretcher ambulance) – **referrer should be directed to CES in the first instance**

**Multiple wheelchairs:**

* Power chair users will be offered a basic manual chair as back- up in case of breakdown
* Accessories (cushions, backrests, specialist seating, etc) are expected to be transferred between wheelchairs where appropriate – **duplicate equipment is not provided**

**Modification and provision to privately purchased equipment (including equipment via an independent PBW):**

* Alterations and provision of accessories will be provided if there is a clear health need (such as tissue viability issues / postural need), and this will not impact on the manufacturer’s warranty

**Exclusion criteria:**

* Wheelchairs / buggies will not be provided as a restraint or as a stationary chair e.g. armchair
* Equipment will only be replaced if it ceases to meet the clinical or life style needs, if it is beyond economical repair or if it is obsolete, so that spares are not available.
* **Wheelchair Service will not take responsibility for replacing wheelchairs due to abuse / violence / neglect.**
* Provision of attendant pushed wheelchairs for general use within care home settings by a number of individuals.
* Wheelchairs for ‘portering’ purposes i.e. transferring residents from room to room etc. within care home settings where the patient is able to sit safely for a reasonable period of time (eg >10-15 minutes).
  + *“A wheelchair will be provided to a Nursing or Residential Care home resident if the wheelchair is for the sole purpose of that Service User and where they can self-propel, have a need for moulded seating or requires a powered chair”*
* Equipment to specifically meet work or education needs will require joint working with other organisations
* Specialist sporting equipment
* Pressure cushions will only be provided by the Wheelchair Service for use in the wheelchair, and pressure mapping will only be carried out in relation to wheelchair seating
* Mobility scooters, accessories not related to health / mobility needs, such as i-Portal mountings and mountings for communication aids will not be provided by the service.

**Equipment that may be provided under exceptional circumstances includes:**

* Trays if there is an identified health / postural need established through a clinical assessment
* Mountings for oxygen cylinders, suction machines etc.

**MK Eligibility Criteria**

The Service will determine the local eligibility criteria with a view to making any changes during the mobilisation of the Contract, All changes will be in conjunction and agreement of the Commissioner, and in line with the Healthcare Standards for NHS-Commissioned Wheelchair Services (May 2010).

As a minimum the Service will provide for individuals that are categorised within Grades 3-6.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Grade** | **Description of User** | **Equipment Needs** |
| 1  (CAT4) | PART TIME USER **SHORT TERM** – Temporary requirement less than 6 months). Normally independently mobile. Immobile due to accident or operation (may include terminal care) | Pushed or self-propelling standard. Special chair may be required e.g. recliner for full leg plaster or hip spica |
| 2 (CAT3) | PART TIME USER **LONG TERM** – Ability to walk short distances. Requires wheelchair on **regular basis for outdoor use** or to enhance quality of life for User/carer | Pushed standard or lightweight  Self-propelling standard  Buggies for User’s |
| 3 (CAT2) | PART TIME USER **LONG TERM –** Variable indoor walking ability due to **fluctuating condition**. High degree of independent life-style but requires wheelchair to maintain level of independence and quality of life | Self-propelling standard or lightweight |
| 4 (CAT1c) | **FULL TIME USER LOW ACTIVITY – Limited or lack of ability to self-propel**. Dependent for many daily living needs | Pushed or self-propelling standard or buggy. Specialise chassis for custom-made seat |
| 5 (CAT1b) | **FULL TIME USER ACTIVE –** Unable to self-propel. **Independent mobility with powered wheelchair.** Degree of independence in daily living activities | EPIC & EPIOC depending on availability/environment + motivation + transit  Transit for travel |
| 6 (CAT1a) | **FULL TIME USER ACTIVE – Independent mobility and lifestyle** Appropriate equipment reduces dependence on others and improves quality of life | Self-propelling standard of high performance (adjustable stability by change of wheel position) |

Electric powered wheelchairs will be prescribed, following assessment, for Service Users who are medically unable to walk, or self-propel, but are capable of independently controlling an electric powered wheelchair safely.

Following confirmation of eligibility, appointments will be allocated based on Service User need. As a minimum, the Service will need to provide a Fast Track/Urgent pathway into the service.

The criteria and eligibility for this pathway will be reflected in the Service eligibility criteria but will need to include:

* those eligible for the Service but with health and safety issues,
* existing Service Users with pressure problems,
* hospital discharge (see 3.2.8),
* rapidly progressive neurological conditions (e.g. Motor Neurone Disease),
* end of life care

Where an individual is not eligible, the Service will inform them of the reasons, offering advice, information and signposting to alternative services and/or provision.

3.2.6 Voucher Scheme

The Wheelchair Voucher Scheme (HSG[96]53) enables Service Users to have greater choice and control over the wheelchair that they use.

* The Service will ensure the following vouchers are made available to Service Users:
* **Independent** – the Service User has the voucher and purchases a wheelchair from any approved supplier, which remains their property. The Service User is also responsible for repair, insurance and servicing;
* **Partnership scheme** – the voucher value is less than would be received via an independent voucher as the wheelchair remains NHS property but all servicing and maintenance is carried out by the NHS; the wheelchairs available are from a range agreed by the Service.
* The Provider is responsible for ensuring that appropriate administration arrangements are in place in order to manage the requirements of the Voucher Scheme;
* The Service will provide information leaflets for Service Users/Carers about the Voucher Scheme.

3.2.7 Specialist Seating & Postural Management

For Service Users with more complex postural management requirements, the Service will provide a comprehensive assessment with an appropriately qualified professional.

The Service will ensure the Service User is provided with special seating and pressure cushions as defined in the clinical assessment, so as to:

* + - Provide postural support;
    - Minimise risk of pressure areas;
    - Maintain existing function;
    - Maintain/improve ability to interact with environment;
    - Minimise risk of deterioration in posture.
* Specialist seating and postural management will be provided in accordance with the Service User’s condition.
* Specialist seating may be either modular or bespoke, required to either accommodate existing physical condition, or to prevent further deterioration in Service Users with progressive degenerative conditions, helping to prevent secondary medical complications.
* Special pushchairs and/or special seating will be issued to children who require postural management.

3.2.8 In Patient Care & Hospital discharge

In order to expedite discharge whilst meeting a Service Users mobility needs the following will apply:

* Service Users who require a temporary wheelchair to facilitate discharge from Milton Keynes University Hospital Foundation Trust (MKUHFT) will be eligible for a short term wheelchair, prescribed by the appropriate health professional, via the Community Equipment Service.
* The Service will be provided with access to the Community Equipment Service to facilitate repatriation to Milton Keynes following out of area inpatient care. It will be made clear on the Clinical Reasoning that the order is based on the clinical assessment of the out of area service. The temporary wheelchair will be used while the Service User is awaiting assessment by the Service. These Service Users will be eligible for the Fast Track/Urgent pathway. It is the Service’s responsibility to ensure the temporary wheelchair is returned to the Community Equipment Service.

3.2.9 Progressive Disorders and Terminal Illness

All Service Users with a rapidly progressive condition or diagnosed as palliative or end of life will be eligible for the Fast Track/Urgent pathway.

* Service Users with progressive neurological conditions, such as Motor Neurone Disease, may be prescribed a specialist wheelchair from an identified range that is eligible for fast track delivery. In these cases, the Service will have in place the appropriate arrangements with suppliers to enable provision within 10 working days of assessment.
* If a bespoke or specialist wheelchair is required which cannot be sourced within this timescale, the Service may prescribe a temporary wheelchair which best meets the needs of the Service User. This will only apply where the Service User does not have a current wheelchair or where continued use of an existing wheelchair is contra-indicated.
* Where an end of life Service User requires a temporary wheelchair, the Service will prescribe a wheelchair that best meets their need from the RSP stock or catalogue stock in order to expedite delivery of the wheelchair. Where there are no suitable temporary wheelchairs in stock, the Service will explore alternative options with the Service User/Carer to ensure a suitable wheelchair is sourced as quickly as possible.

3.4.2 Exclusions

Clinical exceptions may be considered where appropriate

* Where a Service User has purchased a wheelchair via the Voucher Scheme a replacement wheelchair will only generally be provided once five years has elapsed. The Service User will not be entitled to a new voucher unless the needs of the Service User has changed making the wheelchair that has been purchased unsuitable, in which case the Service User will be eligible for a reassessment of their needs;
* Repairs and maintenance will not be provided to Service Users that have purchased their equipment via an Independent Voucher.
* Wheelchairs/buggies will not be provided as a static chair.
* Accessories that do not add to the functionality of the wheelchair will not be provided
* High specification wheelchairs, such as for the purpose of sport, will not be fully funded within this Contract. A standard contribution may be made in accordance with the Voucher Scheme and where the wheelchair is deemed to meet the day to day clinical needs of the Service User.
* Pressure cushions will only be provided for use in the wheelchair.
* Powered wheelchairs and mobility scooters required for outdoor use only are not included.
* The provision of wheelchairs to Nursing and Residential Care Homes for the purpose of portering and transit is not included within this Contract. A wheelchair will be provided to a Nursing or Residential Care home resident if the wheelchair is for the sole purpose of that Service User and where they can self-propel, have a need for moulded seating or requires a powered chair. A care home is defined as *“Accommodation for persons who require nursing or personal care'.* CQC Aug 2013
* Milton Keynes CCG will adhere to NHS England’s ‘Who Pays? Determining Responsibility for Payments to Providers’ (2013) guidance for individuals who are placed within a Milton Keynes locality by another CCG.
* For Service Users that are funded by Milton Keynes CHC or are registered with a Milton Keynes GP but are placed out of area, the Service will be responsible for the assessment and provision of the wheelchair. Where appropriate the wheelchair service where the person is placed may carry out the assessment on behalf of the Milton Keynes CCG.
* This Service will not provide wheelchairs for the purpose of restraint or safety owing to a behavioural or mental health condition, if the patient has the ability to mobilise within their own home.
* Add on power devices, upgraded parts etc. will not be provided. Where Service Users wish to purchase these, an Independent Voucher will be provided.
* 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 is known, and the environment in which the wheelchair will be used on discharge, the Service will assess the Service User for a permanent loan wheelchair.
* Wheelchairs will not be provided for use solely in a work situation or solely in a school or other educational establishment.
* The Wheelchair Services does not provide equipment to children under the age of 36 months. If commercially available buggies do not meet the child’s clinical needs then a referral and assessment may be made And the following **criteria for assessment/provision to under 36 months will be applied:**
* Significant postural deformity which cannot be accommodated in a standard supportive buggy
  + eg significant contractions at the hips and knees, significant spinal deformation which cannot be accommodated with adjustable laterals/inserts/etc.
* Significant comorbidities which require accommodation
  + eg severe spasticity/seizure activity, ventilated, etc
* Special pushchairs and/or special seating can be issued to children over 36 months of age who have postural problems. Seating units will be issued after a joint assessment with the child’s therapist and carer. This should ideally be part of a 24 hour postural management programme.
* Lap straps harnesses and head supports are not supplied for transport use only.
* Items required for transport purposes only will not be supplied