

VOUCHER VALUES

The value of the voucher is dictated by the type of wheelchair prescribed by the NHS wheelchair service. The independent scheme includes an element towards the cost of maintenance and repairs over the voucher period.

Band	Type of Chair prescribed by NHS	Partnership Option	Independent Option
A	Major buggy Standard steel wheelchair	£100	£140
B	Standard active user wheelchair Heavy duty steel wheelchair	£200	£280
C	Modular active user wheelchair Heavy duty active user wheelchair	£265	£370
D	Recliner wheelchair Tilt in Space wheelchair	£465	£650
E	Children's buggies (except major buggy)	£800	£1050
F	Fully independent users	Not available	£1300

VOUCHER SCHEME FOR MANUAL WHEELCHAIRS

Wheelchair Service
Queen Mary's Hospital
Roehampton Lane
London
SW15 5PN

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If you have a permanent need for a wheelchair and you are registered with a GP in the wheelchair service catchment area you can be provided with a free wheelchair from the NHS wheelchair service. However if you want a greater choice or a different model of wheelchair from the free one prescribed from the NHS range you can have a voucher towards the cost of purchasing a wheelchair. Vouchers are only available for manual wheelchairs (powered chairs and supported seating systems are not part of the scheme).

Please Note:

- New referrals must be from a GP or the client's Occupational Therapist or Physiotherapist.
- It is recommended that users have some experience of using a wheelchair before applying for a voucher.
- Registered users can refer themselves for a voucher.
- The voucher period in most cases is a minimum 5 years for adults and 3 years for children. With due care and attention a wheelchair should last at least 5 years. If the user's clinical needs change during the voucher period they can request reassessment.
- The NHS wheelchair service will provide pressure distributing cushions if required.
- As a guide privately purchased wheelchairs cost from about £100.

Following assessment by a therapist if you meet the eligibility criteria you will be offered one of the following wheelchair options:

1. A free NHS wheelchair

- Provided on loan free of charge following assessment by a therapist.
- Modifications and adaptations are available if required.
- Choice limited to NHS agreed range.

The wheelchair service will own the chair and be responsible for its maintenance and repair.

2. A 'partnership' voucher towards the cost of purchasing a wheelchair

- Following assessment you and the therapist complete a prescription form and other documentation confirming the value of the voucher.
- You choose any manual chair from the NHS range as long as it matches your NHS prescription, meets your clinical needs.

The wheelchair service will own the chair and be responsible for its maintenance and repair.

3. An 'independent' voucher towards the cost of purchasing a wheelchair

- Following assessment by a therapist a prescription for and other documentation confirming the value of the voucher are completed.
- You contact suppliers yourself to select a wheelchair (we can give you a list of suppliers who are happy to accept vouchers).
- You choose any manual wheelchair as long as it matches your NHS prescription, meets your clinical needs and the quotation is agreed by the wheelchair service.
- You must purchase the chair from a supplier who participates in the voucher scheme and is recognised by the St Georges Healthcare NHS Trust.
- You give the voucher in the form of a 'Letter of Authorisation' and the Prescription Form to the supplier when you select the wheelchair.
- You will have to contribute towards the cost of the chair.
- The amount will depend upon your choice of chair. You will be invoiced directly by the supplier for any balance owed.
- If the cost of the chair is less than the value of the voucher the voucher value will be amended to match the wheelchair cost.

The user will own the chair and be responsible for its maintenance and repair (an additional amount is included in the voucher for this).