

A decorative graphic on the left side of the page, composed of several overlapping, angled rectangular blocks in shades of blue, yellow, teal, purple, and magenta. These blocks transition into horizontal bars of the same colors extending to the right, creating a sense of flow and movement.

Warrington Wheelchair Service Personal wheelchair budget

Introduction

How does the personal wheelchair budget (PWB) work?

After an assessment, if you are eligible to receive a wheelchair from the NHS, you will have a personal wheelchair budget.

This is a 'virtual' amount of money allocated to meet your assessed needs.

It is designed to give you more choice over your wheelchair, one which meets your assessed needs and any specific requirements you identify as being important to you.

You can decide to use your personal wheelchair budget in the following ways:

1. **Notional budget** (which you do not have to pay for)

Use your personal wheelchair budget within NHS services. Accept the NHS wheelchair prescribed for you. This will be supplied, repaired, and maintained by the NHS at no charge to you. It remains property of the NHS and must be returned when it is no longer needed.

Full details of our repair and maintenance service will be provided to you at the handover of your wheelchair.

2. **Notional budget with top-up** (contribute to your NHS wheelchair)

Use your personal wheelchair budget within NHS services and add a contribution to upgrade or add extra features to the wheelchair prescribed for you. During your assessment, the wheelchair therapy staff will offer you advice and support to do this.

The amount of your personal wheelchair budget is how much it would cost the NHS to provide a wheelchair to meet your clinical needs, and you pay the difference between this amount and the cost of the wheelchair and/or extra features you have chosen. Another agency/organisation could support you with this.

With this option, the wheelchair remains the property of the NHS and will be maintained by the Wheelchair Service. You will be responsible for any replacement costs of these extra features.

You are required to return the wheelchair when it is no longer needed. You can return the wheelchair by phoning the service on 01925 946 080 and requesting a collection.

3. **Third party budget** (access a wheelchair from outside the NHS)

Use your personal wheelchair budget to access a new wheelchair of your choice from an independent supplier outside of the NHS. This option is only available when the wheelchair therapy team agree that it is clinically appropriate for you to do this.

The amount of your personal wheelchair budget is how much it would cost the NHS to provide a wheelchair to meet your clinical needs, and we will give you a contribution towards the cost of repair and maintenance of your chosen wheelchair.

If you choose a wheelchair which costs more than the amount of your personal wheelchair budget, you will have to meet the extra cost yourself. Another charity/organisation could support you with this.

Once you have purchased a wheelchair you will then own the wheelchair and will be responsible for the upkeep, repair, maintenance, insurance, and any other associated costs. It will be your responsibility to arrange all ongoing repairs.

If this is the option you choose, it is important that you chose a supplier that will meet all your needs, such as: assessment, delivery, after sales, repairs etc., as the Wheelchair Service will no longer be responsible for the wheelchair during the time that your budget is active, which is five years for an adult and three years for a child.

Who can apply for a personal wheelchair budget?

Anyone who is registered with a Warrington General Practitioner and is eligible for a permanent loan wheelchair can apply.

A healthcare professional must make all new referrals.

You can refer yourself if you are already a wheelchair user. You can do this by telephoning the service on 01925 946 080 or by emailing us at: alwch.warringtonwheelchairservice@nhs.net

How will I know which wheelchair will meet my clinical needs?

A wheelchair clinician will carry out a full assessment of your clinical needs. They will complete a detailed prescription listing all your requirements.

You will receive a letter of authorisation and a prescription listing your clinical needs.

The prescription can then be used to help you and the approved NHS supplier to choose from the range of wheelchairs to meet your clinical needs.

The wheelchair clinician will need to check the wheelchair you choose fits your prescription.

How much is the personal wheelchair budget?

This depends on your clinical needs and other information available to the Wheelchair Service. The amount will be the cost of the NHS wheelchair prescribed to meet your clinical needs, plus any accessories required.

Under the independent option, an additional amount of money will be added for the average cost of repairs and maintenance. The value of the voucher will be calculated by adding together the cost of the prescribed wheelchair, cushion, pelvic belt, and accessories, if applicable. An average maintenance cost will be added.

The value of the personal wheelchair budget reflects the cost to the NHS and not the retail value.

You can only use your PWB for the same category of chair. For example, a PWB for a manual wheelchair must only be used for purchase of a manual wheelchair.

You will not receive a cash refund if you choose a cheaper wheelchair.

When will my wheelchair need replacing?

A normal well-maintained wheelchair should last at least five years. If you have chosen to take a notional or notional with top-up budget and have a manual wheelchair, you will be contacted by the service three years after the date of issue to arrange a suitable date and time for the service to happen.

If you have an electric powered wheelchair, this will be serviced at one yearly intervals.

You can, however, request a repair or a service of your wheelchair at any point by contacting the wheelchair service on telephone number 01925 946080 or by emailing the service at: alwch.warringtonwheelchairservice.nhs.net

If you have opted to take a third-party budget, then you will be responsible for the upkeep, repair, maintenance, insurance, and any other associated costs. It will be your responsibility to arrange all ongoing repairs.

You can request to be assessed for another personal wheelchair budget after five years if you feel that your wheelchair needs to be replaced.

What if my clinical needs change?

A personal wheelchair budget is normally issued for five years from the date of your assessment for an adult and three years for a child, however, you can request to be re-assessed within the three or five year period if your clinical needs change unexpectedly.

Useful information

Warrington Wheelchair Service
Europa Point
Europa Boulevard
Warrington
Cheshire
WA5 7TY

Telephone: 01925 946 080

Email: AWLCH.warringtonwheelchairservice@nhs.net

Web address: bridgewater.nhs.uk/warrington/wheelchairservice

Monday to Friday 8.00am to 4.00pm

We want to know what you think of our services, so please also let us know if you are happy with the care you receive.

For impartial and confidential advice or information on the services provided by Bridgewater or to receive this leaflet in an alternative format call our Patient Services team on 0800 587 0562.

Headquarters: Europa Point, Europa Boulevard, Warrington, Cheshire, WA5 7TY

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