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### *General information about the NHS Wheelchair and Special Seating Services for disabled people*

If you have difficulty in walking you could qualify for a wheelchair, you should discuss this with your Doctor, District Nurse, Occupational Therapist or Physiotherapist. A Posture and Mobility Therapist will assess your needs at your local NHS Wheelchair and Special Seating Services.

The Wheelchair and Special Seating Services provides appropriate mobility equipment for people of all ages with a long term disability (i.e. likely to be in excess of 6 months ) who have difficulty in walking. They will help you choose a wheelchair that meets your needs, including extras like cushions, arm rests or trays. There is a provision for short term loan wheelchairs (i.e. less than 6 months).

Normally NHS Wheelchairs are provided free on loan for as long as they are needed this includes servicing and repairs. The NHS Wheelchair and Special Seating Services operates the Wheelchair Voucher Scheme. The scheme is aimed to give disabled people a wider choice of wheelchairs within the NHS. Anyone referred to the Wheelchair and Special Seating Services will have 3 options available to them.

#### **Option 1**

To receive the wheelchair prescribed at present.

#### **Option 2 Independent Option**

To contribute to the cost of a more expensive wheelchair of their own choice (within the parameters of the assessment). You will own the wheelchair and be responsible for its maintenance and repair.

#### **Option 3 Partnership Option**

To contribute to the cost of a more expensive wheelchair of their choice from a range selected by the Wheelchair and Special Seating Services. The Wheelchair and Special Seating Services will own the wheelchair and be responsible for its maintenance and repair.

#### **Short Term Loan**

If you have short term mobility problems, i.e. less than 6 months you may be able to loan a manual wheelchair from the NHS Wheelchair and Special Seating Services. You cannot contact them direct. Your doctor needs to make a referral.

## Hiring Wheelchairs

Sometimes you may want to hire a wheelchair for short term use. We have compiled a list of organisations and companies who hire wheelchairs on a short-term basis. View our 'Wheelchair & Scooter Hire' factsheet or contact us on 01302 327800 to request a copy.

## Powered Wheelchairs

For the provision of a powered wheelchair, the need must be permanent. The person must be unable to walk and unable to self propel a manual wheelchair and would gain a measure of independence in the home.

The NHS does not provide electric scooters, powered wheelchairs for outdoor use or specialist sports wheelchairs.

## Special Seating

If you have difficulty sitting in a standard wheelchair you may be assessed by the Special Seating Clinic.

## Wheelchair Repairs

If you require repairs to your N.H.S. wheelchair

**Tel:** 01302 566700

For further information on the voucher scheme, people should contact:

### **Wheelchair and Special Seating Services**

Tickhill Road Hospital

Woodfield Park off Tickhill Road

Balby

Doncaster

DN4 8QN

**Tel:** 01302 566701

The disabled person will not be liable for V.A.T