



**Richmond VAMC
Assistive Technology
Powered Mobility Program**

Reviewed by: _____

Contact number: _____

QUALIFICATIONS: Powered Mobility

Clinical practice recommendation from the VHA Prosthetic Clinical Management Program states the qualifications are:

“Powered mobility is indicated when the veteran demonstrates a clear functional need that cannot or is not likely to be met by conventional rehabilitation or medical interventions and is not otherwise contraindicated. The VA supports the dispensation of powered mobility to allow the veteran to access medical care and to accomplish necessary tasks of daily living in ordinary home and community environments such as paved surfaces and mild terrains (low grass, packed sand and gravel, etc.). While recreational needs may be taken into consideration, the VA does not support the dispensation of powered mobility solely for recreational purposes.”

All of the following specific requirements must be met:

Reasons You Would be Eligible for a Power Wheelchair

- A disability which results in the loss or loss of use of both lower extremities combined with a loss, or loss of use or severe impairment of at least one upper extremity to the extent that it is medically determined they are incapable of satisfactorily propelling a manual wheelchair. Or the patient has a progressive disease that is likely to cause limitation within a year.

OR

Use of manual wheelchair is prohibitive due to the energy expenditures required to meet frequent, unavoidable environmental demands (i.e. long distances, inhospitable environments such as hills, sand, gravel, and inclines) Or use of manual wheelchair is prohibitive due to frequent, unavoidable time challenges (e.g. veteran cannot propel chair quickly enough to complete tasks in a timely fashion) Or use of a manual wheelchair will exacerbate a musculoskeletal or neurological impairment as documented by an appropriate medical professional.

- Adequate functional mobility without the device cannot be achieved by standard medical or rehabilitative treatments.
- Patient has adequate judgment and cognitive abilities, vision, and motor coordination for safe use of a motorized device.
- Home/Community environment is compatible or could be reasonably modified to support the use of motorized device.
- A method for transporting the device to the intended environments of use has been identified.

Reasons You Would NOT be Eligible for a Power Wheelchair

- Inadequate cognitive function, judgment, vision, motor coordination or the presence of a sufficiently serious spatial neglect, to preclude with reasonable certainty, safe operation of the device.
- Seizure disorder: If there is a history of active seizures in the last 6 months, clearance should be obtained from a neurologist that the patient's seizures do not prohibit safe use of a motorized device.



- A documented history of reckless behavior that threatens physical harm to self and/or others such as that due to drug/alcohol impaired functional abilities.
- Frequent failure of prior prescribed wheeled mobility devices suggesting a pattern of misuse, abuse, or neglect.
- Home/Community environment will not support use of motorized device.
- Failed training with device(s). Every effort should be made to resolve deficiencies and should include consideration of retraining and equipment alterations and modifications.

PROCESS:

- 1) Veteran/therapist identifies need for powered mobility.
- 2) Veteran has one of the following options:
 - a) Direct Access request with PMR
 - b) SCI provider places a consult to SCI OT/PT
 - c) Primary care provider places an Assistive Technology Inpatient or Outpatient consult or PM&R Wheeled Mobility Outpatient consult.
- 3) Therapist requests eligibility for power wheelchair from Prosthetics.
- 4) Therapist performs initial evaluation.
- 5) Veteran trials various equipment to determine most appropriate option. Assistive Technology staff may assist veteran/therapist with identifying potentially beneficial equipment for trialing and with installation of equipment.
- 6) After appropriate equipment is determined by therapist and veteran, therapist will take measurements/performance mat evaluation and pressure mapping to assist in filling out prescription for equipment.
- 7) If appropriate, KT Adaptive Driving Specialist is consulted for evaluation of the Veteran’s vehicle to determine if the recommended powered mobility device will fit in the vehicle or if other recommendations are needed.
- 8) Veteran attends Seating & Mobility Clinic for equipment approval.
 - a) Held every Thursday at 1:00pm (Appointment must be scheduled/approved by therapist/Prosthetics).
 - b) Veteran may be required to participate in several appointments as part of the evaluation process.
- 9) Equipment approval process:
 - a) Assigned therapist completes necessary paperwork including wheelchair prescription, signature from provider and another treating therapist and quote from vendor.
 - b) Paperwork is turned in to the Prosthetics Service,
 - c) Prosthetics has 7 days to approve/deny and send to VISN6 Prosthetics,
 - d) VISN6 Prosthetics has 10 days to approve/deny and send to VACO Prosthetics, and
 - e) VACO Prosthetics has 10 days to approve/deny and send back to our Prosthetics Service.
- 10) Prosthetics has 7 days to complete purchase order.
- 11) Vendor completes order and mails equipment to the Richmond VA Medical Center.
- 12) Equipment is processed through the warehouse and is sent to Prosthetics.
- 13) Prosthetics assembles equipment and notifies ordering therapist that the equipment is ready for distribution.
- 14) Veteran is scheduled for final fitting and if no modifications are required, patient takes equipment home with them. In some cases, the equipment is delivered to the home for the fitting.

Seating & Mobility Clinic Members (see step 7)

Chair	Chief, Spinal Cord Injury & Disorders Service, or designee
Coordinator	Chief, Prosthetic Treatment Center, or designee
Member	Chief, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Service, or designee
Member	SCI&D Therapist
Member	Assigned Physical Therapist
Member	Assigned Occupational Therapist
Member	Assigned Kinesiotherapist (Adaptive Driving Specialist)
Recorder	Assigned PTC designee
Other	Patient Advocate, Veteran Service Officer