

**WAC 182-543-4200 Covered wheelchairs—Power-drive.** The medicaid agency pays for medically necessary power-drive wheelchairs when prior authorized.

(1) **Adults.** The medicaid agency pays for power-drive wheelchairs for clients age twenty-one and older when the prescribing physician certifies that the following clinical criteria are met:

(a) The client can independently and safely operate a power-drive wheelchair;

(b) The client's medical condition prevents the client from self-propelling any of the wheelchairs listed in the manual wheelchair category; and

(c) A power-drive wheelchair will provide the client the only means of independent mobility in any of the settings where the client's normal life activities take place.

The agency also pays for power wheelchairs on a case-by-case basis that are determined medically necessary and when prior authorized as described in WAC 182-501-0165. The agency determines medical necessity based on documentation submitted by the provider.

(2) **Children.** The agency reviews all requests for power wheelchairs for a person age twenty and younger using the standard for coverage under the EPSDT program according to the provisions of chapter 182-534 WAC. The agency determines medical necessity based on documentation submitted by the provider.

(3) **Three or four wheeled power-drive scooters/power-operated vehicles (POV).** Additionally, for a three or four-wheeled power-drive scooter/power-operated vehicle (POV) for an adult, the prescribing physician must certify the client's condition is unlikely to require a standard power-drive wheelchair within the next two years.

(4) **Client's primary wheelchair.** When the agency approves a power-drive wheelchair for a client who already has a manual wheelchair, the power-drive wheelchair becomes the client's primary chair, unless the client meets the criteria in subsection (6) of this section.

(5) **Payment for primary wheelchair.** The agency pays to maintain only the client's primary wheelchair, unless the conditions of subsection (7) of this section apply.

(6) **Approval for more than one wheelchair.** The agency pays for one manual wheelchair and one power-drive wheelchair for noninstitutionalized clients when medically necessary for the client to have mobility in all settings where the client's normal life activities take place. Situations that demonstrate medical necessity include, but are not limited to, the following:

(a) The architecture of locations where the client's normal life activities take place are completely unsuitable for a power-drive wheelchair, due to conditions such as narrow hallways, narrow doorways, steps at the entryway, and insufficient turning radius;

(b) The architecture of the bathroom in locations where the client's normal life activities take place is such that power-drive wheelchair access is not possible, and the client needs a manual wheelchair to safely and successfully complete bathroom activities and maintain personal cleanliness; or

(c) The client has a power-drive wheelchair, but also requires a manual wheelchair because the power-drive wheelchair cannot be transported to meet the client's community, workplace, or educational activities. In this case, the manual wheelchair would allow the caregiver to transport the client in a standard automobile or van. The agency requires the client's situation to meet the following conditions:

(i) The client's activities that require the second wheelchair must be located farther than one-fourth of a mile from the client's home or along a pathway that does not provide for safe use of a power wheelchair; and

(ii) Cabulance, public buses, or personal transit are not available, practical, or possible for financial or other reasons.

(7) **Payment for more than one wheelchair.** When the agency approves both a manual wheelchair and a power-drive wheelchair for a noninstitutionalized client, the agency pays to maintain both wheelchairs.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.021 and 41.05.160. WSR 20-03-072, § 182-543-4200, filed 1/10/20, effective 2/10/20. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.021, 41.05.160 and 42 C.F.R. Part 440.70; 42 U.S.C. section 1396 (b)(i)(27). WSR 18-24-021, § 182-543-4200, filed 11/27/18, effective 1/1/19. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.021 and 2013 c 178. WSR 14-08-035, § 182-543-4200, filed 3/25/14, effective 4/25/14. WSR 11-14-075, recodified as § 182-543-4200, filed 6/30/11, effective 7/1/11. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.08.090 and 74.04.050. WSR 11-14-052, § 388-543-4200, filed 6/29/11, effective 8/1/11.]