

# Powered Wheelchair Assessment Fact Sheet



## Patient Information

This fact sheet contains information of what to expect when Wiltshire Wheelchair Services have booked an appointment with you for a powered wheelchair assessment, for an Electrically Powered Indoor /Outdoor Chair- **EPIOC**.

### **Before the appointment/ triage**

This assessment has been arranged for you after Wiltshire Wheelchair Service received a referral /request for a powered wheelchair assessment. Wiltshire Wheelchair Service then reviewed this request and have booked an appointment with you to complete an EPIOC assessment.

### **The appointment**

The purpose of the assessment is to assess both you and your home environment, so the appointment will take place at your home address.



The appointment will be undertaken by one of the Wheelchair Therapists (who are either Occupational Therapists or Physiotherapists) and will usually take approximately 90 minutes, however may be longer in some cases, so please allow that length of time to be free from any other appointments or commitments.

The Therapist will check and assess for: -

### **Your eligibility to have a powered wheelchair**

Against our commissioned criteria:

- Your current level of mobility within the home
- Check that your sight, with any glasses you may need to wear, is sufficient for you to safely drive the chair.

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- That you do not experience any seizures or blackouts with your clinical condition.

### **Your safety and functional ability:**

- A demonstration chair is usually brought along by the therapist for you to try at home, or a separate clinic appointment may be necessary for you to try driving an EPIOC.

### **Your home environment**

- To be prescribed an EPIOC, access into, within and outside of the property must be considered.
  - The therapist will assess height of any steps and thresholds as well as the width of access doors, and if there are other possible issues such as gravel driveways.
  - The internal dimensions and layout of your home, to ensure the chair can get to all the rooms required, turn around in the rooms as required, and fit in and out of any internal doorways.

### **Your measurements and posture**

- So that any prescribed chair will have a suitable back and seat cushion to meet your clinical needs.
- So that an appropriate wheelchair is selected for you, and that the approximate dimensions of the wheelchair can be considered.

Due to the nature and complexity of the assessment, it is advisable, if possible, to have someone with you for the assessment. This would be someone who would often be with you when using the chair, such as a relative, carer or friend. They may have questions, on your behalf, that due to the length of the assessment, may have been overlooked by yourself or others.

If you are eligible, the Therapist will discuss with you options available of the type of chair that would meet your clinical needs and the environments in which you would be using your chair regularly. They will also discuss the way forward from the

assessment to you receiving your chair, and if any housing adaptations may be required in the interim to you receiving your chair. The therapist will take time to discuss any queries or anxieties you may have. You can also contact us afterwards on 01225 899130 or [whc.wcsadmin@nhs.net](mailto:whc.wcsadmin@nhs.net) with any questions.

### **Safeguarding**

Wiltshire Health and Care (WHC) are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults at risk of abuse, including victims and survivors of domestic abuse. We expect all WHC staff to share this commitment and promote safeguarding by implementing WHC policies and procedures, act promptly on concerns and share information appropriately.

If you or your carer have any concerns regarding a child or adult's safety, please phone Wiltshire Safeguarding Team on 0300 456 0111 (Adult) or 0300 456 0108 (Child) (9am – 5pm Monday - Friday) or please call 999 if you feel they are in immediate danger.

### **Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)**

If you have any questions, or concerns, suggestions or compliments about our service, please speak to a member of staff.

This information sheet is available in other languages and formats. If you would like a copy, please contact us on 0300 123 7797 and [whc.pals@nhs.net](mailto:whc.pals@nhs.net)

### **Patient and Public Involvement**

We value your opinions which will help us to further develop our services. If you wish to provide feedback or get involved in our patient participation groups, please email the Patient and Public Involvement Officer at [ask.wiltshirehealthandcare@nhs.net](mailto:ask.wiltshirehealthandcare@nhs.net) or telephone 01249 454386. Please scan the QR code below to access the Friends and Family Test survey.

