

Division of Specialized Care for Children



Support of Power Mobility Bases/Wheelchairs



The following guidelines must be met and addressed in writing using the forms listed on the back of this page. These forms must be submitted to the University of Illinois at Chicago's Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC) Care Coordinator to determine support for power mobility bases.

Guidelines

Factors that Must be Considered

The child's cognitive ability, coordination, depth perception, visual acuity and emotional maturity are important factors that must be considered before recommending a power mobility base/wheelchair.

Successful Trial Period

The child should have a successful trial period during the evaluation phase prior to purchase.

Environmental Barriers

The child should be able to use the power mobility base/wheelchair in all settings. Primary areas of concern include the child's home, school, medical facilities and transportation resources. The family's vehicle or mode of travel should be able to transport the power mobility base/wheelchair.

Purchase of Power and Manual Mobility Bases/Wheelchairs

Power mobility bases/wheelchairs are approved only when a manual mobility base/wheelchair cannot meet the child's medical treatment or medical rehabilitation needs. DSCC cannot purchase both a power and a manual mobility base/wheelchair or other mobility device when the mobility devices serve the same purpose in the child's medical treatment plan. DSCC will not purchase a second mobility base/wheelchair if the current device meets the child's needs. All required information must be submitted to DSCC before a power mobility base/wheelchair is ordered for final purchase.

Power Mobility Base/Wheelchair Evaluation Providers

Physical and/or occupational therapists typically perform mobility base/wheelchair evaluations. The evaluation should include consulting the child and family about mobility base/wheelchair features and the child's needs.

Independent Mobility Base/Wheelchair Evaluations

If a mobility base/wheelchair evaluation has been independently obtained or performed, the recommendations can be accepted if a DSCC provider accepts the evaluation and specifications.

Power Mobility Base/Wheelchair Documentation Requirements

Physician Recommendation

The DSCC managing provider must recommend the power mobility base/wheelchair and approve the specifications identified in the mobility base/wheelchair evaluation.

Power Mobility Base/Wheelchair Evaluation

An evaluation must include information about the child's ability to use the recommended power mobility base/wheelchair and the exact specifications necessary for environmental considerations.



Completing Forms

When submitting a request for a power mobility base/wheelchair, the therapist and physician should provide the information indicated in the Power Mobility Evaluation and complete the Power Mobility Skills Checklist along with the Power Mobility Base/Wheelchair Parent Questionnaire. DSCC does not require providers to use the Power Mobility Evaluation Template as long as the same information is provided in another format signed by the physician and therapist/evaluator. These forms are available on DSCC's website at dsc.uic.edu. Click on "For Providers" and scroll to "Forms." These forms cannot be submitted electronically. They must be signed by the persons indicated.

Training Verification - An Evaluation/Training for Equipment

The Family/Vendor/Therapist form must be completed upon final delivery of equipment only when the mobility base/wheelchair purchased is powered. This form is available from the DSCC Care Coordinator or on the DSCC's website's "For Providers" section.

Limitations

DSCC purchases equipment to meet the child's medical needs.

Used Equipment

DSCC does not purchase used equipment.

Equipment Needed to Meet Developmental Needs

DSCC will not support an equipment purchase based solely on meeting developmental needs. All equipment is purchased based upon documented medical necessity.

Equipment Needed for Educational Purposes

DSCC will not support an equipment purchase recommended to meet educational needs or equipment used only at school.