

Electric Wheelchairs and Power Operated Vehicles

In order for Medicare to consider coverage of a POV or Electric Wheelchair, the medical condition must be such that without this equipment, patient would be bed or chair confined and patient is completely unable to operate a manual wheelchair.

Medicare will not consider coverage if:

- **Patient can walk**
- **Patient can use a manual wheelchair**
- **Patient only needs a POV or electric wheelchair for leisure activities**
- **Patient will not use equipment inside the home**

Note: A POV (Scooter) is usually covered only if ordered by a physician who is one of the following specialties: Physical Medicine, Orthopedic Surgery, Neurology, or Rheumatology. However, this is not necessary for an electric wheelchair.

Medicare requires several forms of documentation in order to prove Medical Necessity for these items. Life Quest Home Medical works with the patient, the physicians, nurses, and therapists to gather information to prove medical necessity prior to submitting these claims to Medicare. The documentation must prove that this equipment is needed. The following explains some of the criteria required.

Diagnosis: Simply because someone is plagued with a condition such as Parkinson's Disease or Multiple Sclerosis, this does not necessarily mean that they are automatically a candidate for an electric wheelchair or POV. Documentation must show a "severe neurological or muscular condition" of both arms and legs, such as a spinal cord injury, advanced multiple sclerosis, or advanced or progressive amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Something to indicate why they are not able to self-propel a manual wheelchair.

Inside vs. Outside: Although the patient may need to (and is able to) use the equipment outside of the home, Medicare does not pay for what they consider to be leisure activity. Therefore, documentation must prove that the equipment is NEEDED and will be used inside of the home as well as outside.

Respiratory Conditions: Be aware that respiratory conditions such as COPD and emphysema do NOT typically qualify a patient for an electric wheelchair or a POV because COPD patients are typically able to operate a manual wheelchair.

PROOF * PROOF * DOCUMENTATION * DOCUMENTATION*

Proof of functional impairment

- 1.) First of all we must prove that this patient is unable to ambulate and will need to use a wheelchair "inside" of their home. **←prove they need a wheelchair**
- 2.) Secondly, we must prove that they are unable to operate and propel themselves in any type of manual or even lightweight wheelchair due to weaknesses but they can operate an electric wheelchair or POV. **←they can use this equipment**