

Benefits for Home Health Power Wheelchairs to Change

Effective for dates of service on or after March 1, 2010, the prior authorization criteria for home health power wheelchairs will change for Texas Medicaid.

Power Wheelchairs

A power wheelchair (PWC) is a professionally manufactured device that provides motorized wheeled mobility and body support specifically for individuals with impaired mobility. Power wheelchairs are four- or six-wheeled motorized vehicles whose steering is operated by an electronic device or joystick to control direction, turning, and alternative electronic functions, such as seat controls. PWC for use only outside the home is not a benefit of Texas Medicaid.

The following definitions apply to PWCs.

- No-Power Option – A category of PWCs that cannot accommodate a power tilt, recline, seat elevation, or standing system. A PWC that can accept only power-elevating leg rests is considered to be a no-power-option chair.
- Single-Power Option - A category of PWCs that can accept and operate a power tilt, power recline, power standing, or a power seat elevation system, but not a combination power tilt and recline seating system. A single-power-option PWC might be able to accommodate power elevating leg rests, seat elevator, or standing system in combination with a power tilt or power recline. A PWC does not have to be able to accommodate all features to meet this definition.
- Multiple-Power Option - A category of PWCs that can accept and operate a combination power tilt and recline seating system. A multiple-power-option PWC might also be able to accommodate power elevating leg rests, a power seat elevator, or a power standing system. A PWC does not have to accommodate all features to qualify to meet this definition.

Each PWC must include all of the following basic components that may not be billed separately:

- Lap belt or safety belt (This does not include multiple-attachment-point positioning belts or padded belts.)
- Battery charger, single mode
- Batteries (initial)
- Complete set of tires and casters, any type
- Leg rests
- Foot rests/foot platform
- Arm rests
- Any weight-specific components (braces, bars, upholstery, brackets, motors, gears, and so on) as required by client weight
- Controller and input device

The following are five PWC groups that must have all the specified basic components and meet all requirements under the specific group.

Group 1 Power Wheelchairs:

- Standard integrated or remote proportional joystick
- Nonexpandable controller
- Incapable of upgrade to expandable controller
- Incapable of upgrade to alternative control devices
- May have cross brace construction
- Accommodates nonpowered options and seating systems (e.g., recline-only backs, manually elevating leg rests[except captains chairs])
- Length – less than or equal to 40 in
- Width – less than or equal to 24 in
- Minimum top end speed – 3 mph
- Minimum range – 5 mi
- Minimum obstacle climb – 20 mm
- Dynamic stability incline - 6 degrees

Group 2 Power Wheelchairs:

- Standard integrated or remote proportional joystick
- May have cross brace construction
- Accommodates seating and positioning items (e.g., seat and back cushions, headrests, lateral trunk supports, lateral hip supports, medical thigh supports [except captain chairs])
- Length – less than or equal to 48 in
- Width – less than or equal to 34 in
- Minimum top end speed – 3 mph
- Minimum range – 7 mi
- Minimum obstacle climb – 40 mm
- Dynamic stability incline – 6 degrees

Group 3 Power Wheelchairs:

- Standard integrated or remote proportional joystick
- Nonexpandable controller
- Capable of upgrade to expandable controller
- Capable of upgrade to alternative control devices

- May not have cross brace construction
- Accommodates seating and positioning items (e.g., seat and back cushions, headrests, lateral trunk supports, lateral hip supports, medial thigh supports [except captains chairs])
- Drive wheel suspension to reduce vibration
- Length – less than or equal to 48 in
- Width – less than or equal to 34 in
- Minimum top end speed – 4.5 mph
- Minimum range – 12 mi
- Minimum obstacle climb - 60 mm
- Dynamic stability incline – 7.5 degrees

Group 4 Power Wheelchairs:

- Standard integrated or remote proportional joystick
- Nonexpandable controller
- Capable of upgrade to expandable controller
- Capable of upgrade to alternative control devices
- May not have cross brace construction
- Accommodates seating and positioning items (e.g., seat and back cushions, headrests, lateral trunk supports, lateral hip supports, medial thigh supports [except captains chairs])
- Drive wheel suspension to reduce vibration
- Length – less than or equal to 48 in
- Width – less than or equal to 34 in
- Minimum top end speed – 6 mph
- Minimum range – 16 mi
- Minimum obstacle climb – 75 mm
- Dynamic stability incline – 9 degrees

The following are additional requirements that Group 2 through Group 4 PWCs must meet in addition to all of the specified basic components previously listed:

Group 2 through Group 4 No-Power Option

- Nonexpandable controller
- Incapable of upgrade to expandable controller
- Incapable of upgrade to alternative control devices
- Meets the definition of no-power option

- Accommodates nonpowered options and seating systems (e.g., recline-only backs, manually elevating leg rests [except captains chairs])

Group 2 through Group 4 Single-Power Option

- Nonexpandable controller
- Capable of upgrade to expandable controller
- Capable of upgrade to alternative control devices
- Meets the definition of single-power option

Group 2 through Group 4 Multiple-Power Option

- Nonexpandable controller
- Capable of upgrade to expandable controller
- Meets the definition of multiple-power option
- Accommodates a ventilator

Group 5 Power Wheelchairs:

- Standard integrated or remote joystick
- Nonexpandable controller
- Capable of upgrade to expandable controller
- Seat width – minimum of 5 one-inch options
- Seat depth – minimum of 3 one-inch options
- Seat height – adjustment requirements = 3 in
- Back height – adjustment requirements minimum of 3 options
- Seat-to-back angle range of adjustment – minimum of 12 degrees
- Accommodates nonpowered options and seating systems
- Accommodates seating and positioning items (e.g., seat and back cushions, headrests, lateral trunk supports, lateral hip supports, medial thigh supports)
- Adjustability for growth (minimum of 3 inches for width, depth, and back height adjustment)
- Special developmental capability (i.e., seat to floor, standing)
- Drive wheel suspension to reduce vibration
- Length – less than or equal to 48 in
- Width – less than or equal to 34 in
- Minimum top end speed – 4 mph
- Minimum range – 12 mi
- Minimum obstacle climb – 60 mm

- Dynamic stability incline – 9 degrees
- Passed crash test

The following are additional requirements that Group 5 PWCs must have in addition to the specified basic components previously listed:

Group 5 Single-Power Option

- Single-Power Option PWC that can accept and operate a power tilt, power recline, power standing, or power seat elevation system, but not a combination power tilt and recline seating system. This PWC may also be able to accommodate power elevating leg rests, seat elevator, or standing system in combination with a power tilt or power recline.

Group 5 Multiple- Power Option

- Multiple-Power Option PWC that can accept and operate a combination power tilt and recline seating system. This PWC may also be able to accommodate power-elevating leg rests, a power seat elevator, or a power standing system.
- Accommodates a ventilator

Prior Authorization

The following is a list of additional prior authorization criteria a client must meet for each wheelchair group to be considered for prior authorization for the rental or purchase of a powered wheelchair.

Wheelchair Group	Authorization Criteria
Group 1 Power Wheelchair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The client will use the PWC for less than 2 hours per day. • The client will use the PWC indoors on smooth, hard surfaces. • The client will not encounter obstacles in excess of .75 inch.
Group 2 Power Wheelchair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The client will use the PWC for 2 or more hours per day. • The client will not routinely use the PWC for Mobility-Related Activities of Daily Living (MRADL) outside the home. • The client will not encounter obstacles in excess of 1.5 inches.
Group 3 Power Wheelchair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The client's mobility limitation is due to a neurological condition, myopathy, or congenital skeletal deformity. • The client may routinely use the PWC for MRADLs outside of the home. • The client will use the PWC primarily on smooth or paved surfaces. • The client will not encounter obstacles in excess of 2.5 inches.

Wheelchair Group	Authorization Criteria
Group 4 Power Wheelchair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to using the PWC in the home, the client will routinely use the PWC for MRADLs outside the home. • The client will routinely use the PWC on rough, unpaved, or uneven surfaces. • The client will encounter obstacles in excess of 2.25 inches. <p>The client has a documented medical need for a feature that is not available on a lower level PWC.</p> <p>The submitted documentation for a Group 4 PWC must include a complete assessment that is signed and dated by the physician or a licensed physical or occupational therapist and includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A description of the environment where the PWC will be used in the routine performance of MRADLs • A listing of the MRADLs that would be possible with the use of a Group 4 PWC that would not be possible without the Group 4 PWC • The distance the client is expected to routinely travel on a daily basis with the Group 4 PWC. <p>Note: <i>The enhanced features found on a Group 4 PWC must be medically necessary to meet the client's routine MRADL and will not be approved for leisure or recreational activities.</i></p>
Group 5 Pediatric Power Wheelchair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The client weighs less than 125 pounds. • The client is expected to grow in height. • The client may grow up to 5 inches in width. • The client may require a change in seat to floor height up to 3 inches. • The client may require a seat-to-back angle range of adjustment in excess of 12 degrees. • The client requires special developmental capability (i.e., seat to floor, standing, etc.).
Group 5 Pediatric Power Wheelchair with Single-Power Option	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The client meets criteria for a Group 5 PWC. • The client requires a drive control interface other than a hand- or chin-operated standard proportional joystick (examples include, but are not limited to, head control, sip -and-puff, and switch control).

Wheelchair Group	Authorization Criteria
Group 5 Pediatric Power Wheelchair with Multiple- Power Option	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The client meets criteria for a Group 5 PWC.• The client requires a drive control interface other than a hand- or chin-operated standard proportional joystick (examples include, but are not limited to, head control, sip-and-puff, and switch control).• The client has a documented medical need for a power tilt and recline seating system and the system is being used on the wheelchair and/or the client uses a ventilator that is mounted on the wheelchair.