

Mid Essex Wheelchair Service

Please take a leaflet for
more information



voucher scheme
leaflet

To give you more choice, our service
can contribute towards a privately
purchased wheelchair through
our voucher scheme

THE NHS VOUCHER SCHEME

- This leaflet explains the Wheelchair Voucher scheme that is available through the NHS Wheelchair Services in North Essex.
- The Wheelchair Voucher Scheme is designed to give NHS clients a wider choice of wheelchair than is available directly from the NHS.
- Within the scheme, the client is given a voucher for a fixed sum of money instead of a wheelchair, to which they can add funding of their own to purchase the wheelchair that they prefer.

THIS IS HOW IT WORKS

- A referral to the service is checked against Eligibility Criteria. Once eligibility is confirmed, the client's mobility needs will be assessed and a wheelchair which meets these needs will be offered.
- However, if the client would like a different wheelchair, a voucher can be issued towards the cost of the wheelchair of choice and the balance paid by the client to the supplier.
- The Wheelchair Service Therapist will issue a Prescription detailing the important aspects, functions or sizes that the wheelchair must comply with to meet the client's clinical need

Clients using the voucher scheme have two choices:

PARTNERSHIP OPTION

The client pays the additional cost (above the value of the voucher) to an Agreed Supplier for the wheelchair they would like, from a range specified by the Wheelchair Service. This option is not VAT exempt.

The wheelchair service will not own the wheelchair and won't be responsible for its maintenance and repair.

Or the:

INDEPENDENT OPTION

The client pays the additional cost (above the value of the voucher) to an Agreed Supplier for any wheelchair they would like provided it meets their clinical need.

The voucher will include an amount towards the maintenance and repairs. The client may not have to pay VAT with the Independent option.

The client will own the wheelchair and be responsible for its maintenance and repair

TRANSFERRING TO THE VOUCHER SCHEME.

- Anyone, who resides in the Essex area, has a permanent need for a wheelchair and meets the Eligibility Criteria, can opt to use The Voucher Scheme.
- New applicants for wheelchairs should say they are interested in the voucher scheme as soon as possible.
- Existing wheelchair users should contact their Wheelchair Service to indicate interest in the Voucher Scheme.
- All wheelchair clients will be required to attend an assessment with the Therapist where a range of wheelchairs can be tried out.
- Wheelchairs outside this range, available under the Independent Option, can be tried by arrangement with an Approved Supplier.
- When the wheelchair user has decided on the wheelchair and which option, the Wheelchair Service will forward the voucher and purchase instructions.
- The client will then need to pass the voucher to the Approved Supplier when paying for the wheelchair.

VOUCHER VALUES

Depending on the mobility needs and other information available to the wheelchair therapist, the client will be designated an appropriate 'band' for voucher issue. The relevant option selected by the client will also dictate the value of the voucher.

- For the PARTNERSHIP option the wheelchair service will undertake all repairs and maintenance.
- Under the INDEPENDENT option the client becomes responsible for repairs and maintenance. The value of the Independent voucher is enhanced in recognition of this.

The values of the bands are:

Band	Partnership	Independent
Band A	£218	£320
Band B	£333	£495
Band C	£448	£885
Band D	£701	£1,390

BANDING GUIDE

Band A: 75% of clients, including most children, fall into this band.

Band B: Wheelchair users who require an extra wide or heavy duty (up to 23 stones) wheelchair.

Band C: Wheelchair users who require an extra heavy-duty or non-standard wheelchair.

Band D: Wheelchair users, including children, requiring specialist equipment.

CHANGING NEEDS.

1. Normal wheelchairs, with due care and attention, should last at least five years.
2. As the voucher is issued in lieu of the wheelchair it also has a life of five years.
3. A further voucher cannot be issued in less than five years. However, if during that time the wheelchair user's clinical needs change, the wheelchair user can request reassessment and be offered alternative equipment under the NHS provision.

For further information contact your local NHS Wheelchair Service at:

**Mid Essex Wheelchair
Service
The Gemini Centre
88 New London Road
Chelmsford
CM2 OPD
TEL: (01245) 318560**