

Personalisation | Choice | Control

Personal wheelchair budgets

Your chair, your way



Your chair, your way

Your personal wheelchair budget, formerly the wheelchair voucher scheme, allows you greater choice and control, so that you can personalise your chair, your way.

There are three different types of personal wheelchair budgets (PWB) for you to choose from.

Notional

Combined

Third party

You can select the standard NHS provision, go for top-up options and accessories to the NHS products (all products must be approved, compatible and safe to use with your chair) or choose an alternative chair outside the normal NHS range (all products must meet the clinical needs as defined within your AJM NHS assessment).

Both combined and third-party options can be provided by AJM, as well as through an approved private supplier.

Notional

This is the standard NHS provision of a wheelchair based on a clinical assessment of your needs. The wheelchair remains the property of the NHS and the NHS pays to maintain the equipment in relation to normal wear and tear in line with our terms and conditions of loan.

Combined

Previously, this was the partnership voucher. As with the notional PWB, you will be assessed to identify the needs and equipment prescribed to meet your clinical needs.

You will then have the option of using the value of this prescribed equipment to purchase another chair within the wheelchair service standard range, or to top up the PWB to purchase extras for the wheelchair, which the NHS will not usually provide.

The wheelchair would remain the property of the NHS and the NHS will continue to undertake maintenance on the wheelchair. If you have chosen a top-up option, for example, a powered riser, you may need to pay for the repair and maintenance of these items yourself. The equipment would be provided under our standard terms and conditions.

Third party

Previously called an independent voucher, with the third party option, like the combined PWB, you will receive a full assessment and prescription based on your needs. In addition, you will have an amount of money towards the repair and maintenance of the wheelchair added to your PWB figure by AJM. You are then free to use the money towards a wheelchair of your choice from any approved supplier of wheelchairs.

Any equipment purchased using a third party PWB would be your property and you would be responsible for maintaining and repairing it, as well as paying the difference between the PWB value and the cost of the equipment.

Personal wheelchair support plan

Before your wheelchair assessment, you will be asked to think about the things that are most important to you, by completing the personal wheelchair support plan, which will help you and the therapist to find the most appropriate wheelchair/seating solution.

Insurance

Public liability insurance is strongly recommended if you are using your wheelchair in a public place, particularly if you are using a powered wheelchair.

Our friendly team of experts is available to answer any questions you may have on personal wheelchair budgets. Contact them on

Tel: 0330 128 1260

What's available to you

Examples of alternative equipment



Powered riser



Lights



Power assist

Powered recline



Wheels and tyres



Enhanced controller system



Colour options

Forks and castors



Frequently asked questions

Can I have a personal wheelchair budget (PWB)?

Yes. You can have a PWB if you are referred to the AJM wheelchair service and you meet the eligibility criteria.

If you are an existing wheelchair user, you will be eligible for a PWB when your chair requires replacement; for example, if your needs change or your current wheelchair is not fit for purpose.

What happens next?

During your assessment, your therapist will let you know if you can access the scheme. They will prepare a personal wheelchair support plan with you.

Does a PWB include the cost of my assessment?

No. The PWB is for equipment only.

Can I buy a wheelchair straight away?

Yes. You can buy a wheelchair as soon as AJM has approved your choice as being suitable to meet your needs. You cannot buy a chair and then ask for your PWB.

What if a third-party PWB is more than the cost of my chair?

AJM will keep the remainder in a repair and maintenance fund for you. You can claim back the cost of any repairs until the fund is used up.

What if my chosen chair is more than the value of the PWB?

Where your choice of equipment is higher than the value of the PWB, AJM will provide the PWB value only directly to your choice of supplier. You will need to fund the difference to the supplier before your chair is released to you.

How long do I have after I access a PWB to buy my chair?

You have six (6) months to buy your wheelchair after accessing your PWB. You will need to be reassessed if you have not chosen your wheelchair during this time.

Where can I use my PWB?

You must use your PWB with an approved UK NHS wheelchair supplier.

Are there any restrictions on what I can buy with my PWB?

Yes. You must buy a new wheelchair only - you cannot buy a second-hand wheelchair. Similarly, you can't buy a scooter or a trike with your PWB.

Do I need to buy my chair right away with my PWB?

No. You have up to six (6) months to buy your wheelchair after accessing your PWB. If you have not bought your wheelchair in this time, we will need to reassess you.

How do I use the third-party and combined PWB options?

We can provide you with a list of approved suppliers who accept the PWB scheme. You will need to give them your wheelchair specification provided by your therapist. Your chosen wheelchair **must** meet this specification.

Can I buy cushions and seating?

No. Cushions, postural seating and special seating cannot be purchased by a third party or combined PWB. Where you have been assessed for specialist seating and cushions, your chosen wheelchair must be compatible with the items prescribed by AJM.

Will I own my wheelchair?

Yes. With a third party PWB, you will own your chair. However, if it is a notional or combined PWB, it will remain the property of the NHS.

How will I get my wheelchair repaired or maintained?

With a notional PWB, AJM can be contacted for all repairs and maintenance. If you bought, or topped up, your chair using a combined PWB, you are responsible for paying for repairs and maintenance on the parts you have added or chair you have bought. With a third party PWB, you are responsible for arranging for all repairs and maintenance as this will be allowed for within the value of your PWB.

Can I get insurance cover for repairs and maintenance?

Yes. There are a number of national insurance providers who offer range of solutions.

Can I appeal the PWB process?

Yes. All appeals for any process should first be made to the service manager of your local service and/or the head office.

Can I combine my PWB with other methods of funding?

Yes. You may be eligible for access to work or charity funding. This can all be combined to provide a personalised solution for you.

If you'd like to know more about personal wheelchair budgets and what they can do for you, get in touch with our friendly team of experts.

Tel: 0330 128 1260



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**IF YOU NEED US TO COMMUNICATE
WITH YOU IN A DIFFERENT WAY, OR
HAVE ANY OTHER ACCESSIBILITY
REQUIREMENTS, PLEASE LET US KNOW**



Tel: 0330 128 1260

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