

Department of Origin: Integrated Healthcare Services	Effective Date: 12/06/22
Approved by: Medical Policy Quality Management Subcommittee	Date Approved: 12/06/22
Clinical Policy Document: DMEPOS, Wheelchairs and Mobility Assistive Equipment	Replaces Effective Clinical Policy Dated: 12/07/21
Reference #: MC/D003	Page: 1 of 8

PURPOSE:

The intent of this clinical policy is to ensure services are medically necessary.

Please refer to the member's benefit document for specific information. To the extent there is any inconsistency between this policy and the terms of the member's benefit plan or certificate of coverage, the terms of the member's benefit plan document will govern.

POLICY:

Benefits must be available for health care services. Health care services must be ordered by a provider. Health care services must be medically necessary, applicable conservative treatments must have been tried, and the most cost-effective alternative must be requested for coverage consideration.

GUIDELINES:

Medical Necessity Criteria – Must satisfy the following: I, and any of II - V

- I. Request for *mobility assistive equipment (MAE)* must satisfy all the following: A – D
 - A. The member has a mobility limitation that significantly impairs their ability to participate in *activities of daily living (ADLs)* – as evidenced by any of the following: 1 - 3
 1. Member cannot accomplish an *ADL* entirely; or
 2. Member is at a heightened risk of morbidity or mortality secondary to the attempts to perform an *ADL*; or
 3. Member cannot complete an *ADL* within a reasonable time frame.
 - B. The member's mobility limitation cannot be sufficiently resolved by the use of other assistive devices, including but not limited to, an appropriately fitted cane or walker; and
 - C. Features of the *power operated vehicle*, wheelchair, or transport chair are based upon the member's physical and functional capabilities and body size as assessed by a qualified professional or professionals and appropriate to the type of device requested; and
 - D. An assessment of the member's home demonstrated that the home provides adequate access between rooms, maneuvering space and surfaces for use of the *MAE* provided.
- II. *Power operated vehicle (POV)* /scooter (K0800, K0801, K0802, K0806, K0807, K0808, K0812) request – must satisfy all of the following: A – D
 - A. The member is unable to self-propel an optimally configured manual wheelchair to perform *ADLs*. [Note: An optimally configured wheelchair includes an appropriate wheelbase, weight, seating options and other non-powered accessories.]
 - B. The member can do all of the following: 1 - 3
 1. Safely transfer to and from a *POV*; and
 2. Operate the tiller steering system; and

Department of Origin: Integrated Healthcare Services	Effective Date: 12/06/22
Approved by: Medical Policy Quality Management Subcommittee	Date Approved: 12/06/22
Clinical Policy Document: DMEPOS, Wheelchairs and Mobility Assistive Equipment	Replaces Effective Clinical Policy Dated: 12/07/21
Reference #: MC/D003	Page: 2 of 8

3. Maintain postural stability and position to safely operate the *POV*.
- C. The *POV* is being requested in lieu of a power wheelchair.
- D. Standard equipment allowed for a *POV* include any of the following: 1 - 8
1. Battery or batteries required for operation
 2. Single mode battery charger
 3. Weight appropriate upholstery and seating system
 4. Tiller steering
 5. Non-expandable controller with proportional response to input
 6. Complete set of tires
 7. All accessories needed for safe operation
 8. Options and accessories provided at the time of initial issue of a power operated vehicle are not separately billable
- III. Power wheelchair (PWC) request – must satisfy the following: A and B, and C - E, as applicable
- A. Age specific PWC – must satisfy any of the following: 1 or 2
1. The member is at least 18 months of age but less than 4 years of age – must satisfy the following: a, and b - c, as applicable
 - a. Documentation supports all the following: 1) – 5)
 - 1) A completed assessment supports that the member is developmentally and cognitively ready to operate a power wheelchair; and
 - 2) The member is expected to use a powered mobility device as a primary means of mobility for more than one year; and
 - 3) The device will be used to support age appropriate *ADLs*; and
 - 4) The member’s caregivers have carefully considered the risks and benefits of independent power mobility for very small children; and
 - 5) The member has participated in an age-appropriate mobility training program and/or instruction.
 - b. Power seat elevation system (E2300) is allowed
 - c. An attendant control (power wheelchair drive control system) (E2331), remote stop switch and/ or impact guards – is allowed when necessary for the child’s safe and effective functioning in the power wheelchair (see also, III.D.2).
 2. The member is equal to or greater than 4 years of age – must satisfy all the following: a - d
 - a. The member is unable to self-propel an optimally configured manual wheelchair to perform *ADLs* during a typical day; and
 [Note: An optimally configured wheelchair is one with an appropriate wheelbase, weight, seating options and other appropriate non-powered accessories]
 - b. The member is unable to safely operate a *POV* or maintain postural stability and position while operating a *POV*; and
 - c. The member is capable of safely operating the controls of a power wheelchair, or has a caregiver who cannot push a manual chair but can propel the power chair using an attendant control; and
 - d. The additional features provided by a power wheelchair are needed to allow the member to participate in one or more *ADLs*.

Department of Origin: Integrated Healthcare Services	Effective Date: 12/06/22
Approved by: Medical Policy Quality Management Subcommittee	Date Approved: 12/06/22
Clinical Policy Document: DMEPOS, Wheelchairs and Mobility Assistive Equipment	Replaces Effective Clinical Policy Dated: 12/07/21
Reference #: MC/D003	Page: 3 of 8

- B. Additional coverage based on specific type of power wheelchair request - must satisfy the following: 1, and any of 2 - 8
1. The request meets all the following: a - c
 - a. Criteria is met for an age specific power wheelchair (A., above); and
 - b. Clinical documentation by a physical therapist (PT), occupational therapist (OT), or provider who has specific training and experience in rehabilitation wheelchair evaluations supports the medical necessity for the wheelchair and its special features; and
 - c. The wheelchair is provided by a supplier that employs a RESNA-certified Assistive Technology Professional (ATP) who specializes in wheelchairs and who has direct, in-person involvement in the wheelchair selection for the member.
 2. Group 1 PWC (K0813, K0814, K0815, K0816) or Group 2 PWC (K0820, K0821, K0822, K0823, K0824, K0825, K0826, K0827, K0828, K0829) – documentation supports that the wheelchair is appropriate for the member’s weight.
 3. Group 2 single power option PWC (K0835, K0836, K0837, K0838, K0839, K0840) - must satisfy the following: a or b
 - a. The member requires a drive control interface other than a hand or chin-operated standard proportional joystick (eg, head control, sip and puff, or switch control); or
 - b. The request meets the criteria for a power tilt or a power recline seating system (see Power wheelchair options section D., below), and the system is being used on the wheelchair.
 4. Group 2 PWC with multiple power options (K0841, K0842, K0843) - must satisfy the following: a or b
 - a. The member uses a ventilator which is mounted on the wheelchair; or
 - b. The request meets the criteria for a power tilt or a power recline seating system (see Power wheelchair options section D., below), and the system is being used on the wheelchair.
 5. Group 3 PWC with no power options (K0848, K0849, K0850, K0851, K0852, K0853, K0854, K0855) – documentation supports that the member's mobility limitation is due to a neurological condition, myopathy, or congenital skeletal deformity.
 6. Group 3 PWC with single power option (K0856, K0857, K0858, K0859, K0860) or multiple power options (K0861, K0862, K0863, K0864) - request meets the criteria for a Group 2 single power option PWC (3., above) or Group 2 multiple power options PWC (4., above).
 7. Group 4 PWC (K0868, K0869, K0870, K0871, K0877, K0878, K0879, K0880, K0884, K0885, K0886) - must satisfy the following: a and b
 - a. The member's mobility limitation is due to a neurological condition, myopathy, or congenital skeletal deformity; and
 - b. The request meets the criteria for a Group 3 multiple power options PWC (6., above).
 8. Group 5 (pediatric) PWC with single power option (K0890) or multiple power options (K0891) - must satisfy the following: a and b
 - a. The member is expected to grow in height; and
 - b. The request meets the criteria for a Group 2 single power option or Group 2 multiple power options PWC (3., or 4., above).

Department of Origin: Integrated Healthcare Services	Effective Date: 12/06/22
Approved by: Medical Policy Quality Management Subcommittee	Date Approved: 12/06/22
Clinical Policy Document: DMEPOS, Wheelchairs and Mobility Assistive Equipment	Replaces Effective Clinical Policy Dated: 12/07/21
Reference #: MC/D003	Page: 4 of 8

- C. Wheelchair accessory, power seat elevation system (E2300) request - must satisfy the following: 1, and either 2 or 3
1. Primarily needed to support *ADLS*; and
 2. Member is capable of independently operating the wheelchair that is provided; or
 3. Member has a caregiver who is available, willing, and able to provide assistance with the wheelchair.
- D. Power wheelchair options request - must satisfy any of the following: 1 – 3, and not 4
1. Power seating system (tilt only, recline only, or combination tilt and recline [E1002, E1003, E1004, E1005, E1006, E1007, E1008] – with or without power elevating leg rests) – must satisfy any of the following: a - c
 - a. The member is at high risk for development of a pressure ulcer and is unable to perform a functional weight shift; or
 - b. The member utilizes intermittent catheterization for bladder management and is unable to independently transfer from the wheelchair to bed; or
 - c. The power seating system is needed to manage increased tone or spasticity.
 2. Attendant control (power wheelchair drive control system [E2331]) – must satisfy the following: a or b
 - a. The member is unable to operate a manual or power wheelchair and has a caregiver who is unable to operate a manual wheelchair but is able to operate a power wheelchair; or
 - b. The member is less than 10 years of age.
 3. Standard options and accessories for power wheelchairs include any of the following: a - l
 - a. All types of tires and wheels
 - b. Any back width
 - c. Any seat width and depth
 - d. Weight-specific components required by the patient-weight capacity of the wheelchair
 - e. Battery charger
 - f. Fixed swing-away or detachable footrests or foot platform, including angle adjustable footrests for group 1 or 2 power wheelchairs
 - g. Fixed swing-away or detachable non-adjustable armrests with arm pad
 - h. Fixed swing-away or detachable non-elevating leg rests with or without calf pad
 - i. Lap belt or safety belt
 - j. Non-expandable controller
 - k. Standard integrated or remote proportional joystick
 - l. All labor charges involved in the assembly of the wheelchair
 4. Non-standard options or accessories for power wheelchairs may include:
 - a. Adjustable height arm rests
 - b. Elevating leg rests
 - c. Angle adjustable footrests for group 3, 4 or 5 power wheelchairs
 - d. Manual fully reclining back option
 - e. Power tilt (see D., above)
 - f. Power recline (see D., above)
 - g. Seat elevator
 - h. Shoulder harness or straps or chest straps or vest
 - i. Skin protection seat cushions, position accessories

Department of Origin: Integrated Healthcare Services	Effective Date: 12/06/22
Approved by: Medical Policy Quality Management Subcommittee	Date Approved: 12/06/22
Clinical Policy Document: DMEPOS, Wheelchairs and Mobility Assistive Equipment	Replaces Effective Clinical Policy Dated: 12/07/21
Reference #: MC/D003	Page: 5 of 8

- j. Standing feature (see C., above)
 - k. Expandable controller
 - l. Nonstandard joystick or alternative control device

- IV. Manual wheelchair (E1161, E1229, E1231, E1232, E1233, E1234, E1235, E1236, E1237, E1238, K0001, K0002, K0003, K0004, K0005, K0006, K0007, K0009) request – must satisfy the following:
 - A or B; C or D ,as applicable, and not E

 - A. The member has sufficient upper extremity function to propel a manual wheelchair; or

 - B. The member has a caregiver who is available, willing, and able to provide assistance with the wheelchair.

 - C. Manual wheelchair accessory, manual standing system (E2230) request - must satisfy the following: 1, and either 2 or 3
 - 1. Primarily needed to support *ADLS*; and

 - 2. Member is capable of independently operating the wheelchair that is provided; or

 - 3. Member has a caregiver who is available, willing, and able to provide assistance with the wheelchair.

 - D. Standard options and accessories for manual wheelchairs include:
 - 1. Calf rests or pads
 - 2. Fixed height arm rests (fixed, swing-away or detachable)
 - 3. Footrests and foot plates (fixed, swing-away or detachable)
 - 4. Hand rims with or without projections
 - 5. Wheel lock assemblies

 - E. Non-standard options and accessories for manual wheelchairs may include:
 - 1. Adjustable height arm rests
 - 2. Anti-rollback device
 - 3. Elevating leg rests
 - 4. Head rest extensions
 - 5. Non-standard seat frames (standard is 15” – 19” width and depth)
 - 6. One-arm drive attachments
 - 7. Positioning accessories
 - 8. Push activated power assist
 - 9. Safety belts/straps
 - 10. General use seat and back cushions
 - 11. Skin protection seat and back cushions

- V. Transport chair (E1037, E1038, E1039), rollabout chair/geri chair (E1031) request as an alternative to a standard manual wheelchair (K0001) – the member has a caregiver who is available, willing, and able to provide assistance with the chair.

Department of Origin: Integrated Healthcare Services	Effective Date: 12/06/22
Approved by: Medical Policy Quality Management Subcommittee	Date Approved: 12/06/22
Clinical Policy Document: DMEPOS, Wheelchairs and Mobility Assistive Equipment	Replaces Effective Clinical Policy Dated: 12/07/21
Reference #: MC/D003	Page: 6 of 8

NOT ROUTINELY COVERED:

Power wheelchairs for children under 18 months

An attendant control for a member 4 years of age or older is being provided in addition to a member-operated drive control system.

Standing systems: A power standing system (E2301) is non-covered because it is not primarily medical in nature. When a standing system is non-covered, a stand and drive package is ineligible for coverage because a standing feature is non-covered.

An electronic connection device (E2310 or E2311) when the sole function of the connection is for a power standing feature or power seat elevator.

[Note: the electrical connection device described by these codes is covered when needed to supply power for two different covered functions, such as when a member meets criteria for power tilt and power recline.]

A non-sealed battery (E2358, E2360, E2362, E2364, E2372)

A dual-mode battery charger (E2367)

Segway personal transporters (eg, the Segway i2 SE Patroller, Segway x2 SE Patroller, Segway SE-3 Patroller, Segway miniPLUS, and Segway miniPRO320) and other pedestrian-on-wheels products.

EXCLUSIONS (not limited to):

Refer to member's Certificate of Coverage or Summary Plan Description

DEFINITIONS:

Activities of Daily Living (ADL):

Activities related to personal self-care and independent living, which include eating, bathing, dressing, transferring, walking/mobility, and toileting/continence

Functional reach package (also called active reach):

An added feature of the power wheelchair that combines forward tilt with a power seat elevating system. It allows the member to lean forward with the seat elevated so they can get closer to objects.

Mobility Assistive Equipment (MAE):

Refers to manual or power wheelchairs, scooters or power operated vehicles.

Mobility limitation:

Refers to a limitation that significantly impairs a member's ability to participate in one or more ADLs, prevents the member from accomplishing an ADL entirely, places the member at a heightened risk of morbidity or mortality secondary to the attempts to perform an ADL or prevents the member from completing an ADL within a reasonable time frame.

Power attendant control:

An accessory to allow a caregiver (someone other than yourself) to operate a power wheelchair.

Power mobility device:

Refers to a power wheelchair.

Department of Origin: Integrated Healthcare Services	Effective Date: 12/06/22
Approved by: Medical Policy Quality Management Subcommittee	Date Approved: 12/06/22
Clinical Policy Document: DMEPOS, Wheelchairs and Mobility Assistive Equipment	Replaces Effective Clinical Policy Dated: 12/07/21
Reference #: MC/D003	Page: 7 of 8

Power Operated Vehicle (POV):

Refers to a power operated scooter. A POV is a 3- or 4-wheeled device with tiller steering and limited seat modification capabilities.

Power seat elevation system:

An added feature of the wheelchair to raise the seat in order to reach items on counters or in cupboards, turn on lights, and other household tasks.

Seat elevation reduced drive:

A feature that allows you to drive slowly while your seat is elevated.

Stand and drive package:

A feature that allows you to drive the wheelchair while in a standing position. Used with the power standing system feature.

Department of Origin: Integrated Healthcare Services	Effective Date: 12/06/22
Approved by: Medical Policy Quality Management Subcommittee	Date Approved: 12/06/22
Clinical Policy Document: DMEPOS, Wheelchairs and Mobility Assistive Equipment	Replaces Effective Clinical Policy Dated: 12/07/21
Reference #: MC/D003	Page: 8 of 8

Prior Authorization: Yes, per network provider agreement

CODING:

CPT® or HCPCS - See guideline

CPT codes copyright 2022 American Medical Association. All Rights Reserved. CPT is a trademark of the AMA. The AMA assumes no liability for the data contained herein.

REFERENCES:

1. Integrated Healthcare Services Process Manual: UR015 Use of Medical Policy and Criteria
2. Clinical Policy: MP/C009 Coverage Determination Guidelines
3. Clinical Policy: MP/D004 Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics and Supplies
4. Bottos M, Bolcati C, Sciuto L, Ruggeri C, Feliciangeli A. Powered wheelchairs and independence in young children with tetraplegia. *Dev Med Child Neurol.* 2001 Nov;43(11):769-77. doi: 10.1017/s0012162201001402. PMID: 11730152.
5. Butler C, Okamoto GA, McKay TM. Motorized wheelchair driving by disabled children. *Arch Phys Med Rehabil.* 1984 Feb;65(2):95-7. PMID: 6230066.
6. Durkin J. (2009). Discovering powered mobility skills with children: ‘responsive partners’ in learning. *International Journal of Therapy and Rehabilitation, 16(6), 331-342.*
7. Furumasu J, Guerette P, Tefft, D. (1996). The development of a powered wheelchair mobility program for young children. *Technology and Disability, 5, 41-48.*
8. Furumasu J, Guerette P, & Tefft D. (2004). Relevance of the Pediatric Powered Wheelchair Screening Test for children with cerebral palsy. *Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology, 46(7), 468-74.*
9. Jones MA, McEwen IR, & Neas BR. (2012). Effects of power wheelchairs on the development and function of young children with severe motor impairments. *Pediatric Physical Therapy, 24, 131-140.*
10. Livingstone R & Paleg G. (2014). Practice considerations for the introduction and use of power mobility for children. *Developmental Medicine & Child Neurology, 56, 210–222.*
11. National Coverage Determination (NCD) for DME Reference List (280.1) Implementation Date 7/05/2005.
12. National Coverage Determination (NCD) for Mobility Assistive Equipment (MAE) (280.3). Implementation Date 07/05/2005.
13. Nilsson L, Nyberg P. (1999). Single-switch control versus powered wheelchair for training cause-effect relationships: case studies. *Technology and Disability, 11, 35-38.*
14. Nilsson L. (2007). Driving to learn. The process of growing consciousness of tool use – a grounded theory of de-plateauing. Lund University, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Health Sciences, Division of Occupational Therapy and Gerontology.
15. Nilsson L, Nyberg P, & Eklund M. (2010). Training characteristics important for growing consciousness of joystick-use in people with profound cognitive disabilities. *International Journal of Therapy & Rehabilitation, 17(11), 588-95.*
16. Tefft D, Guerette P, & Furumasu J. (1999). Cognitive predictors of young children’s readiness for powered mobility. *Developmental Medicine & Child Neurology, 41, 665–670.*

DOCUMENT HISTORY:

Created Date: 11/09/20
Reviewed Date: 10/08/21, 10/06/22
Revised Date: 01/15/21, 11/18/22

Nondiscrimination & Language Access Policy

Aspirus Health Plan, Inc. complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. *We* do not exclude people or treat them differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

We will:

- Provide free aids and services to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us, such as:
 - Qualified sign language interpreters
 - Written information in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, other formats)
- Provide free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as:
 - Qualified interpreters
 - Information written in other languages

If *you* need these services, contact *us* at the phone number shown on the inside cover of this *COC*, *your* id card, or aspirushealthplan.com.

If *you* believe that *we* have failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex, *you* can file a grievance with:

Nondiscrimination Grievance Coordinator
Aspirus Health Plan, Inc.
PO Box 1062
Minneapolis, MN 55440
Phone: 1. 866.631.5404 (TTY: 1.866.631.8597)
Fax: 763.847.4010
Email: customerservice@aspirushealthplan.com

You can file a grievance in person or by mail, fax, or email. If *you* need help filing a grievance, the Nondiscrimination Grievance Coordinator is available to help *you*.

You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at <https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf>, or by mail or phone at:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Room 509F, HHH Building
Washington, D.C. 20201
1-800-368-1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD)

Complaint forms are available at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html>.

Language Assistance Services

Albanian: KUJDES: Nëse flitni shqip, për ju ka në dispozicion shërbime të asistencës gjuhësore, pa pagesë. Telefononi në 1.866.631.5404 (TTY: 1.866.631.8597).

تنبيه: إذا كنت تتحدث اللغة العربية، فإن خدمات المساعدة اللغوية 1.866.631.5404 (رقم هاتف الصم والبك : 1.866.631.8597) متاحة لك مجاناً. اتصل بن اعلى رقم الهاتف
Arabic

French: ATTENTION : Si vous parlez français, des services d'aide linguistique vous sont proposés gratuitement. Appelez le 1.866.631.5404 (ATS : 1.866.631.8597).

German: ACHTUNG: Wenn Sie Deutsch sprechen, stehen Ihnen kostenlos sprachliche Hilfsdienstleistungen zur Verfügung. Rufnummer: 1.866.631.5404 (TTY: 1.866.631.8597).

Hindi: _यान द_ : य_द आप िहंदी बोलते ह_ तो आपके िलए मु_त म_ भाषा सहायता सेवाएं उपल_ध ह_। 1-800-332-650 (TTY: 1.866.631.8597) पर कॉल कर_।

Hmong: LUS CEEV: Yog tias koj hais lus Hmoob, cov kev pab txog lus, muaj kev pab dawb rau koj. Hu rau 1.866.631.5404 (TTY: 1.866.631.8597).

Korean: 주의: 한국어를 사용하시는 경우, 언어 지원 서비스를 무료로 이용하실 수 있습니다. 1.866.631.5404 (TTY: 1.866.631.8597) 번으로 전화해 주십시오.

Polish: UWAGA: Jeżeli mówisz po polsku, możesz skorzystać z bezpłatnej pomocy językowej. Zadzwoń pod numer 1.866.631.5404 (TTY: 1.866.631.8597).

Russian: ВНИМАНИЕ: Если вы говорите на русском языке, то вам доступны бесплатные услуги перевода. Звоните 1.866.631.5404 (телетайп: 1.866.631.8597).

Spanish: ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1.866.631.5404 (TTY: 1.866.631.8597).

Tagalog: PAUNAWA: Kung nagsasalita ka ng Tagalog, maaari kang gumamit ng mga serbisyo ng tulong sa wika nangwalang bayad. Tumawag sa 1.866.631.5404 (TTY: 1.866.631.8597).

Traditional Chinese: 注意：如果您使用繁體中文，您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 1.866.631.5404 (TTY : 1.866.631.8597)

Vietnamese: CHÚ Ý: Nếu bạn nói Tiếng Việt, có các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí dành cho bạn. Gọi số 1.866.631.5404 (TTY: 1.866.631.8597).

Pennsylvania Dutch: Wann du Deitsch (Pennsylvania German / Dutch) schwetzscht, kannscht du mitaus Koschte ebbergricke, ass dihr helft mit die englisch Schprooch. Ruf selli Nummer uff: Call 1.866.631.5404 (TTY: 1.866.631.8597).

Lao: ໂປດຊາບ: ຖ້າວ່າ ທ່ານເວົ້າພາສາ ລາວ, ການບໍລິການຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອດ້ານພາສາ, ໂດຍບໍ່ເສັຽຄ່າ, ແມ່ນມີພ້ອມໃຫ້ທ່ານ. ໂທສ 1.866.631.5404 (TTY: 1.866.631.8597).