

CHECKLIST FOR GETTING A POWER WHEELCHAIR IN A NURSING FACILITY
Prepared by the Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania

1. Get a doctor's written order or prescription for a power wheelchair evaluation at an accredited rehabilitation facility for the individual.

The doctor can be the nursing facility doctor or another doctor.

Ask the social worker, nurse, and physical therapist for help, or contact the doctor directly.

2. Get an evaluation for the individual at an accredited rehabilitation facility.

The facility should participate in Medical Assistance (Medicaid).

Call the Office of Long Term Living Helpline (telephone number below) for help finding an accredited rehabilitation facility.

Some nursing facilities bring an outside evaluator into the nursing facility. Be sure that the evaluator is from an accredited rehabilitation facility.

Ask the social worker to schedule the evaluation and, if necessary, arrange transportation. Ask the physical therapist, nurse, or doctor for help if needed.

3. Get a copy of the evaluation report for the power wheelchair evaluation.

Be sure to have the individual sign an authorization to release information form.

Make a written request for a copy of the report if needed.

4. Advocate with the physical therapist, social worker, nurse, and doctor that the doctor immediately write an order or prescription for the power wheelchair and adaptations recommended by the evaluator.

Call the Office of Long Term Living or Department of Health (telephone numbers below) for help if needed.

5. Advocate that the nursing facility immediately work with an equipment vendor to order the recommended power wheelchair with adaptations.

6. Advocate for the correct funding source for the power wheelchair.

The nursing facility must pay for all necessary equipment for the individual out of its Medical Assistance (Medicaid) per diem rate.

However, a specially adapted power wheelchair that costs \$5000 or more can be funded by an Exceptional Durable Medical Equipment (DME) grant from Medical Assistance (Medicaid). The nursing facility must apply for this grant from the state.

If the individual has a discharge date, fee-for-service Medical Assistance (Medicaid) can be billed directly for the power wheelchair.

The nursing facility is responsible to make sure that the individual promptly gets the new power wheelchair, regardless of the funding source.

7. Advocate that the individual own and take the power wheelchair with him or her when he or she moves to the community.

If the Exceptional DME grant or fee-for-service Medical Assistance (Medicaid) pays for the power wheelchair, the individual owns the power wheelchair.

Even if the nursing facility pays for the power wheelchair, the power wheelchair should go with the individual upon discharge as part of the nursing facility's obligation to provide a safe and orderly discharge.

Advocate so that the new power wheelchair is part of the individual's discharge plan. The individual can invite you as his or her advocate to attend the discharge planning meeting.

WHO TO CALL FOR HELP

Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania
800-692-7443 (Voice), 877-375-7139 (TDD)
intake@drnpa.org (Email), <http://www.drnpa.org/> (Website)

Your Local Center for Independent Living
Pennsylvania Council of Independent Living, 717-920-0530 (Voice)
http://www.pcil.net/network_of_centers.htm (Website)

Pennsylvania Department of Health Nursing Facility Complaint Hotline
800-254-5164 (Voice), www.health.state.pa.us/ (Website)

Pennsylvania Office of Long Term Living Helpline
866-286-3636 (Voice), <http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/About/OLTL/> (Website)

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PLEASE NOTE: For information in alternative formats or a language other than English, contact DRN at 800-692-7443 Ext. 400, TDD: 877-375-7139, or drnpa-hbg@drnpa.org.