

Equipment Services

TRIAL - Basic Mobility Aids

Six (6) Month Trial

Basic Mobility Aid Categories

The Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme (MASS) recognises that increased frailty and declining functional ability impact directly on an individual’s health, wellbeing, comfort, and places them at significant risk of avoidable/premature hospital admission.

MASS is conducting a six (6) month trial, which aims to address this issue by increasing available options for prescribers when applying for mobility aids (manual, tilt-in-space manual and power wheelchair) required for effective mobility to maintain independence, to assist carer’s in managing clients mobility needs at home and prevent premature hospital admission.

Where an applicant meets eligibility, MASS will subsidise one mobility item only for a client’s primary mobility within the home environment (please refer to the [Application Guidelines for Mobility Aids](#)).

This trial introduces a new range of basic manual, tilt-in-space manual and power wheelchair options for provision **as per the clinical criteria noted in this trial**, which is supplementary to the [Application Guidelines for Mobility Aids](#). These new categories will support the current MASS eligibility requirements for **“The most basic mobility item which meets the applicants needs for seating, mobility and functional activities to be requested”**.

Funding for these basic manual and power wheelchair categories is on a trial basis only. MASS has not received additional funding to support this initiative and the viability of the trial is dependent on existing budget constraints being met.

Basic Definition - products which are cost effective and may have one or more of the following features - off the shelf, lightweight, foldable/transportable, no requirement for adjustability.

| Subsidised item | May be subsidised when |
|---|---|
| Trial Basic manual wheelchair (MWC) \$1,200 As per current subsidy for manual wheelchairs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants permanent and stabilised condition or disability impairs their or carer’s ability to effectively mobilise applicant within their home environment and for limited community access (e.g. medical, dental, or allied health appointments). Applicant does not require complex seating or postural supports but is functionally unable to independently mobilise within home (e.g. result of increasing frailty, significant shortness of breath on exercise (COPD, IHD, CCF, CKD), lower limb weakness). |
| Trial Tilt in space manual wheelchair | In addition to meeting the basic manual wheelchair criteria above, applicant requires tilt in space to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve or maintain a more upright, stable supported sitting |

| Subsidised item | May be subsidised when |
|---|---|
| (TIS MWC) \$4,000 as per current subsidy for TIS manual wheelchairs | position when head and trunk control are impaired. OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redistribute pressure so less pressure is directed through bony prominences on the seat, if the applicant is unable to weight bear in standing. OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate optimal positioning for comfort and function due to deformity/pain/involuntary movement/abnormal tone/seizure activity. OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better manage respiration, gastro-intestinal function and facilitate hoist transfers. |
| Trial Basic power wheelchair (PWC) \$5,000 with discretionary funding for applicants requiring HD or larger basic PWC due to safe working load, anthropomorphic requirements or other clinical justification | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants permanent and stabilised condition or disability impairs their or their carer's ability to effectively mobilise applicant within their home environment and for limited community access (e.g. medical, dental, or allied health appointments). • Applicant does not require complex seating or postural supports but is functionally unable to independently mobilise within home (e.g. result of increasing frailty, significant shortness of breath on exercise (COPD, IHD, CCF, CKD), lower limb weakness). • Applicant only needs/intends use indoors and on level/gently sloped, smooth terrain such as paths. <p>Note: Equipment is not intended for use on uneven or steeply sloped terrain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant has demonstrated ability to develop the skills necessary to effectively control and manoeuvre the requested power wheelchairs inside the home and around any areas to be accessed. • Applicant/carer is able to undertake care and maintenance of the power wheelchair including daily charging of batteries. <p>Note: As per the Application Guidelines for Mobility Aids, clients eligible for a basic power wheelchair will also remain eligible for a back-up manual wheelchair.</p> |

Note: Current requirements to trial a wheelchair prior to submitting an application still apply for the basic mobility aid category.

MASS SOA Options List for Basic Mobility Aid – as per eligibility criteria and maximum subsidy.

Basic Power Wheelchair:

- Basic Power Wheelchair - \$5,000 subsidy limit
- Pride GoChair NG
- Pride Jazzy Passport
- Pride Jazzy Select 6
- Pride Jazzy Select Elite HD*
- Sunrise Breezy P100
- Sunrise Quickie Q100
- Sunrise Quickie Q200
- Karma KP25.2 16", 18", 20"

*\$5,000 subsidy with limited additional discretionary funding where clinical justification is provided.

How to Apply

| Application Method | Instructions |
|---|---|
| MASS20 DLA/MOB Application Form – PDF | Complete application form as per standard process and submit to MASS with quote attached for the basic mobility aid |
| MASS-eApply | Complete MASS-eApply as per standard process <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Select the Basic Mobility Aid requested2. Manual Wheelchairs and TIS Manual Wheelchairs subsidy limits remain as per existing – copayments will reflect correctly.3. During the Trial - Basic Power Wheelchairs applications will not reflect the client copayment where the product selected is over the \$5,000 subsidy limit. MASS will advise the prescriber where a copayment is applicable. |

Important Information

Where MASS has funded a basic manual or power wheelchair for a client’s primary mobility within the home environment:

- Repairs and maintenance, that is wear and tear, for plaqued items will be funded until the item is no longer economical to repair, as per standard criteria in the [MASS General Guidelines](#).
- Repairs and maintenance that are due to misuse or damage to the item are not funded by MASS, as per the standard criteria in the [MASS General Guidelines](#).
- Future replacement of a basic manual or power wheelchair approved under this trial may not be available.
- For all mobility aids, items on the Standing Offer Arrangement (SOA) are to be considered first. Refer to the list included in this supplement for more information.
- Non-SOA items can be considered where they have been demonstrated to better meet the applicant’s clinical and functional needs. This equipment must meet MASS’ purchasing requirements e.g. Australian supplier, Australian Standards requirements where relevant. Applications for Non-SOA items may take longer to process due to the need to investigate the above noted requirements.



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