

How do I access the service?

If you are an existing wheelchair user and known to SWaPS, contact the team on the information below. If you are new to the service, you need to be referred through an accredited referrer who could be, for example, an occupational therapist, physiotherapist, community nurse or via service involved in your care.

For more information, call:
01743 444051

Shropshire Wheelchair and Posture Service
Shropshire Rehabilitation Centre
Lancaster Road
Harlescott
Shrewsbury
SY1 3NJ
Email: Shropcom.swaps@nhs.net

Powered Wheelchairs

Patient Information:

This leaflet provides advice and support to patients about **Powered Wheelchairs** from **Shropshire Wheelchair and Posture Service (SWaPS)**



What is a Powered Wheelchair?

- Electric wheelchair driven through a joystick and powered through two motors
- Class 2 vehicle
- Maximum speed of 4mph.
- Indoor wheelchairs with outdoor capabilities.



Above: Quickie Hula Mid Wheel Drive Wheelchair

Am I eligible?

To be eligible for a powered wheelchair you must require the wheelchair for indoor use, and have difficulty propelling yourself in a manual wheelchair.

The NHS does not supply powered wheelchairs for outdoor use only, therefore if this is what you require please consider shop mobility schemes or private purchase.

Your home environment must also be suitable for a powered wheelchair. This means having level access into the property, and clear routes to follow through the property. Advice may be provided regarding the layout of furniture to increase the access within the home environment, e.g. ramps etc.

Powered Wheelchair Assessment Process

There are two stages to the powered wheelchair assessment process:

Indoor Assessment

- Carried out in clinic or at your home address
- Tests your ability to maneuver in an indoor environment

Outdoor assessment

- Carried out following safe demonstration of powered wheelchair usage indoors
- A route either in your local environment or at the Shropshire Rehabilitation Centre
- Tests your ability to manage hazards such as other pavement users, crossing roads and dealing with uneven surfaces

What to expect:

Indoor assessment

- Chair will be configured to suit your physical presentation
- Drive controls will be demonstrated
- Drive through the environment being assessed in a powered wheelchair. In your own home this will be through rooms you access regularly

Outdoor assessments

- Follow a route outdoors for approximately 45 minutes
- You will need to be dressed appropriately for the weather

A family member/carer may attend the assessment for support especially if they will always be present when you are going outdoors.



Above: Rear Wheel Drive powered wheelchair

Referral ➡ Initial appointment ➡ Indoor assessment ➡ Outdoor assessment ➡ Handover