

Advantages & Disadvantages of each option

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
Nhs Present Scheme	Modifications as required to meet clinical need. No cost to have wheelchair repaired, maintained.	Aesthetic choice and accessories may not be available
Independent	You can choose from a wider range of wheelchairs, provided the Wheelchair Service is satisfied it meets your clinical needs.	You are responsible for maintenance and repairs. SWaPS will not be able to modify the wheelchair.

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

Voucher Scheme Information Leaflet

Patient Information:

This leaflet provides advice and support to patients about

Voucher Scheme from
Shropshire Wheelchair and Posture Service (SWaPS)

www.shropscommunityhealth.nhs.uk



What is the Wheelchair Voucher Scheme?

The Voucher Scheme is designed to give you the opportunity to contribute towards the cost of 'upgrading' your NHS wheelchair. This allows you a wider choice of wheelchair than available through the NHS.

Assessment

An assessment of your mobility needs will be carried out by Wheelchair Clinicians. A clinical decision will be agreed as to model of wheelchair provided by the Wheelchair. This will provide the monetary value towards the wheelchair.

General information

It will help you to decide on your options and wheelchair if you visit a wheelchair supplier before requesting to proceed with the voucher provision.

If your *clinical* needs change within the voucher period and your wheelchair no longer meets your needs you can come back to us and discuss your problem.

If within the voucher period you feel your wheelchair is unsuitable for a non-clinical reason, for example: you have changed your car and the wheelchair will no longer fit in the boot of your car, it is unlikely to be replaced until a clinical reason is established.

Voucher Information

Each prescribed wheelchair will be valued at the cost to the NHS. The voucher value is based on this. There will also be a maintenance allowance added to the value.

Based on the clinical agreement, you can select a preferred model from an approved supplier.

Value of voucher = cost of prescribed wheelchair + allowance for maintenance and repairs (you will have to fund any additional costs).

The maximum voucher period will be five years - subject to clinical assessment. If the period is assessed to be less than 5 years, the maintenance allowance will be reduced proportionally. After the end of the voucher period, if the wheelchair is still suitable a voucher will not be issued by SWaPS.

Once you have chosen the Voucher option the wheelchair will be your property and you will be responsible for the maintenance and repairs of the wheelchair. Your current NHS wheelchair will be withdrawn.

Issues to consider about Voucher Provision

- Have you found a suitable wheelchair available at an approved supplier?
- Have you checked after-sales service?
- Have you considered the long and short term cost implications?
- Have you thought of future changes in your circumstances?