

# Personal Wheelchair Budgets (PWB) Frequently Asked Questions



**Opcare**

**Enhancing your ability**

A brand of the AM Healthcare Group

## What is a personal wheelchair budget (PWB)?

A PWB is a scheme offered to provide a wider choice for those needing to use a wheelchair. This enhanced scheme has replaced the previous Wheelchair Voucher Scheme.

At your assessment, you will discuss your health and well-being needs with a clinician, and establish the outcomes that you want to achieve with your wheelchair. This will be recorded on your support plan.

If you are eligible for NHS provision, you will be prescribed an NHS wheelchair; the cost of provision to the NHS is your notional personal wheelchair budget. You can then decide how to use your PWB.

## Will I be offered a personal wheelchair budget?

PWBs are determined using criteria local to your service. You will be offered a PWB if you meet the criteria, if your needs have changed, or if your wheelchair is beyond economical repair. You will not be offered a PWB if there is no clinical need, or, for example, if only an accessory or part requires replacement.

## What is a personal wheelchair budget support plan?

Before your assessment, you will need to think about the things that are important to you. You will be asked to complete a short Personal Wheelchair Support Plan, which will help you and the therapist to find the most appropriate wheelchair for your needs.

## How do I arrange to be assessed?

If you are known to the Wheelchair Service, you can call and request a reassessment. If you do not currently have a wheelchair issued by the Wheelchair Service, your G.P. or healthcare professional can refer you for an assessment.



## **How is the third party payment made?**

If a Third Party PWB is authorised, we will make a direct payment to the manufacturer or supplier that you are purchasing your wheelchair or buggy from. If the value of your PWB is greater than the cost of your equipment of choice, the supplier will only receive the amount covering the cost of the equipment you would have been prescribed by the NHS. If you choose to use your notional PWB with an additional contribution to purchase an upgraded wheelchair, the wheelchair service will invoice you for any cost over your PWB, and the goods will only be supplied once payment has been received.

## **Will I be expected to return the NHS chair that I have now?**

Yes, your current NHS wheelchair will have to be returned to the wheelchair service.

## **How long is the equipment expected to last?**

We generally expect an adult wheelchair to last approximately five years. However, your individual clinical needs and the amount you use the wheelchair may reduce this timespan; for example, children's wheelchairs should last around three years, as their needs must be regularly reassessed in line with their growth.

Public Liability Insurance is strongly recommended if you are using your wheelchair in a public place, particularly with powered wheelchairs. The Third Party PWB includes a contribution towards repairs and maintenance, as the chair will be owned by you and will not qualify for NHS repairs, but it does not include a contribution towards public liability insurance.

If you are intending to travel in a vehicle whilst seated in your wheelchair, please ensure that the wheelchair model you have chosen has been crash tested by the manufacturer.

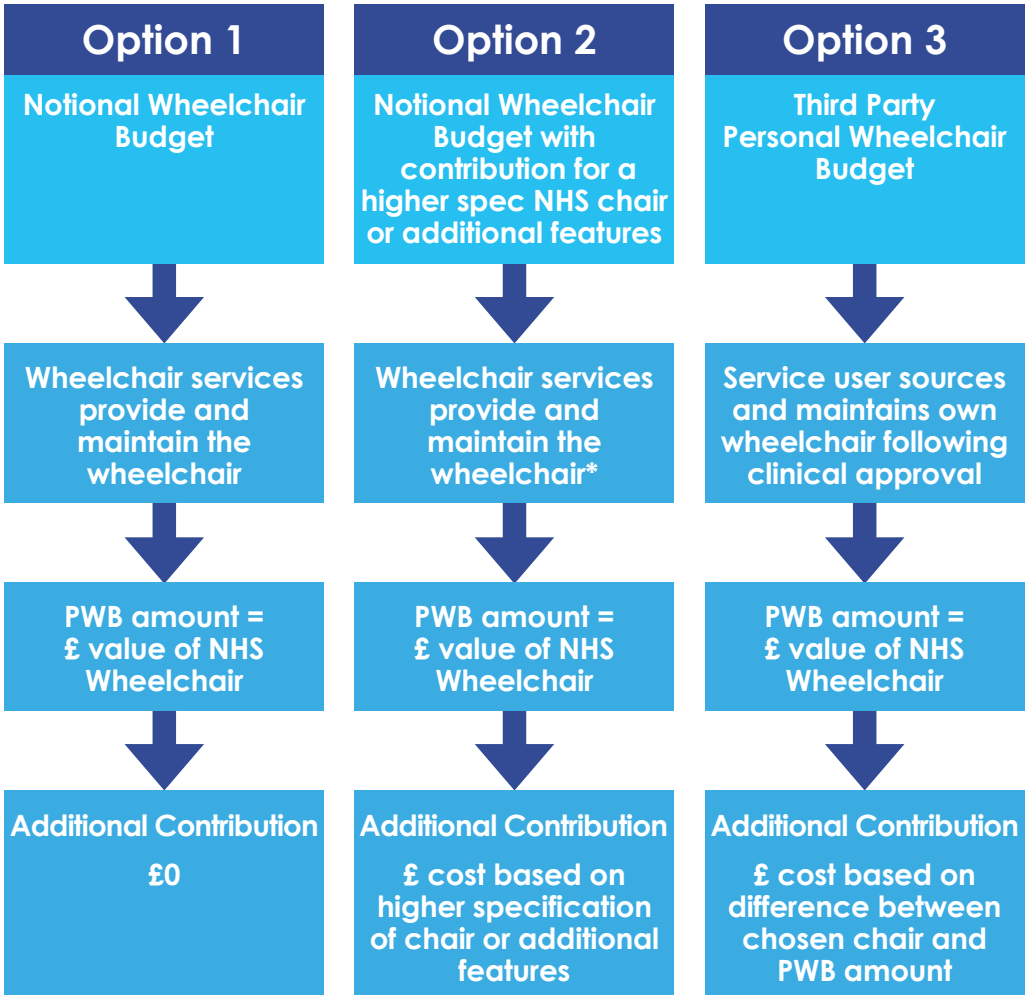
## **Will you still provide a pressure relief cushion if I need one?**

We will still provide a pressure relief cushion for your PWB wheelchair if clinically required. This will not affect the type or the amount of your budget.

# Why do I have to pay VAT?

VAT is charged as the NHS will be purchasing the equipment on your behalf and are charged VAT.

## Types of PWBs explained



\* Wheelchair services provide and maintain the wheelchair. However, you may have to pay a contribution towards maintenance and repairs of the additional parts you purchase, which will cover you for the life of your wheelchair. Please note that certain additions are excluded and cannot be repaired by the service e.g. if you top up for rain covers.