Fact sheet

Medicare Coverage of Wheelchairs & Scooters

Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance) covers power-operated vehicles (scooters) and wheelchairs as Durable Medical Equipment (DME) if:

- The doctor treating your condition submits a written order stating that you have a medical need for a wheelchair or scooter for use in your home.
- You have limited mobility and meet all of these conditions:
  - You have a health condition that causes significant difficulty moving around in your home.
  - You're unable to do activities of daily living (like bathing, dressing, getting in or out of a bed or chair, or using the bathroom) even with the help of a cane, crutch, or walker.
  - You're able to safely operate and get on and off a wheelchair or scooter, or have someone with you who is always available to help you.
  - Both the doctor treating you for the condition that requires a wheelchair or scooter, and the DME supplier of the wheelchair or scooter, accept Medicare.
  - Your doctor or DME supplier has visited your home and verified that you can use the equipment within your home (for example, it's not too big to fit through doorways in your home).

After you meet the Part B deductible, you pay 20% of the Medicare-approved amount if your DME supplier accepts assignment.

Assignment is an agreement by your doctor, provider, or supplier to be paid directly by Medicare, to accept the payment amount Medicare approves for the service as payment in full, and not to bill you for any more than the Medicare deductible and coinsurance. Make sure your doctor and DME supplier participate in Medicare. If suppliers participate in Medicare, they must accept assignment (which means they can charge you only the Part B deductible and the coinsurance for the Medicare-approved amount). If suppliers don't participate or won't accept assignment, you may have to pay more.

If you're in a Medicare Advantage Plan or other Medicare health plan, contact your plan to find out about costs and which DME suppliers you can use.

Types of equipment

Manual wheelchair

If you can't use a cane or walker safely, but you have enough upper body strength (or have someone to help you), you may qualify for a manual wheelchair. You may have to rent your manual wheelchair first, even if you eventually plan to buy it.

Power-operated vehicle/scooter

If you can't use a cane or walker, or operate a manual wheelchair, you may qualify for a power-operated scooter. To qualify, you must be able to get in and out of it safely, and be strong enough to sit up and operate the controls.

Note: If you don't need a scooter on a long-term basis, you can rent the equipment. Talk to your supplier about this option.

Power wheelchair

If you can't use a manual wheelchair in your home, or you don't qualify for a power-operated scooter, you may qualify for a power wheelchair.

Do I need to see my doctor?

Before you get either a power wheelchair or scooter, you must have a face-to-face exam with your doctor. The doctor will review your needs and help you decide if you can safely operate the device. Then, the doctor will submit a written order telling Medicare why you need the device and that you're able to operate it.

What happens if I need prior authorization?

You may need prior authorization (or prior approval) for certain types of power wheelchairs or scooters. Your Durable Medical Equipment (DME) supplier will work with the provider treating you to send a prior authorization request and any required documents to Medicare for approval. Medicare will review the information to make sure you're eligible and meet all requirements for the item. If Medicare approves the request, your DME supplier will deliver a power wheelchair or scooter to you.

Power wheelchairs that require prior authorization

These power wheelchairs require prior authorization before Medicare will pay for them:

Power wheelchair (sling/solid seat/back)			
Model	**Group**	**Type**	**Weight capacity in pounds**
K0813	1 standard	Sling/solid seat/back	300
K0815	1 standard	Sling/solid seat/back	300
K0820	2 standard	Sling/solid seat/back	300
K0822	2 standard	Sling/solid seat/back	300
K0824	2 heavy duty	Sling/solid seat/back	301 to 450
K0826	2 very heavy duty	Sling/solid seat/back	451 to 600
K0828	2 extra heavy duty	Sling/solid seat/back	601 or more
K0835	2 standard	Sling/solid seat/back	300
K0837	2 heavy duty	Sling/solid seat/back	301 to 450
K0839	2 very heavy duty	Sling/solid seat/back	451 to 600
K0840	2 extra heavy duty	Sling/solid seat/back	601 or more
K0841	2 standard	Sling/solid seat/back	300
K0843	2 heavy duty	Sling/solid seat/ back	301 to 450
K0848	3 standard	Sling/solid seat/back	300
K0850	3 heavy duty	Sling/solid seat/back	301 to 450
K0852	3 very heavy duty	Sling/solid seat/back	451 to 600
K0854	3 extra heavy duty	Sling/solid seat/back	601 or more
K0856	3 standard	Sling/solid seat/back	300
K0858	3 heavy duty	Sling/solid seat/back	301 to 450
K0860	3 very heavy duty	Sling/solid seat/back	451 to 600
K0861	3 standard	Sling/solid seat/back	300
K0862	3 heavy duty	Sling/solid seat/back	301 to 450
K0863	3 very heavy duty	Sling/solid seat/back	451 to 600
K0864	3 extra heavy duty	Sling/solid seat/back	601 or more

Power wheelchair (captains chair)			
Model	**Group**	**Type**	**Weight capacity in pounds**
K0814	1 standard	Portable	300
K0816	2 standard	Not portable	300
K0821	2 standard	Portable	300
K0823	2 standard	Not portable	300
K0825	2 heavy duty	Not portable	301 to 600
K0827	2 very heavy duty	Not portable	451 to 600
K0829	2 extra heavy duty	Not portable	601 or more
K0836	2 standard	Not portable	300
K0838	2 heavy duty	Not portable	301 to 450
K0842	2 standard	Not portable	300
K0849	3 standard	Not portable	300
K0851	3 heavy duty	Not portable	301 to 450
K0853	3 very heavy duty	Not portable	451 to 600
K0855	3 extra heavy duty	Not portable	601 or more
K0857	3 standard	Not portable	300
K0859	3 heavy duty	Not portable	301 to 450

Power Operated Vehicles		
Model	**Group**	**Weight capacity in pounds**
K0800	1 standard	300
K0801	1 heavy duty	301 to 450
K0802	1 very heavy duty	451 to 600
K0806	2 standard	300
K0807	2 heavy duty	301 to 450
K0808	2 very heavy duty	451 to 600

Visit Medicare.gov/coverage/wheelchairs-scooters for more information on power mobility devices.

How will I know if Medicare approves my prior authorization request?

Medicare will send a decision letter to your DME supplier. You can contact your DME supplier about the decision, or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048.

Why did Medicare deny my request?

Medicare may deny your prior authorization request and refuse to pay its part of the cost if:

- Medicare doesn't get all the information needed to make a decision.
- Medicare finds you don't medically require a power wheelchair.

If Medicare needs more information, your DME supplier may resubmit your prior authorization request. If Medicare denies your power wheelchair claim because Medicare didn't approve the prior authorization request, you may appeal the claim decision. You can file an appeal if you disagree with a coverage or payment decision by Medicare or your Medicare plan. Visit **Medicare.gov/providers-services/claims-appeals-complaints/appeals** for more information on the appeals process.

What do I do if I suspect fraud?

Signs of fraud and abuse by a supplier are offers to:

- Give you a "free" wheelchair or scooter
- Pay you cash or waive your copayment
- Have a doctor you don't know order a wheelchair or scooter for you

You can help Medicare stop fraud and abuse by:

- Keeping a record of your doctor's appointments and any equipment you get
- Reviewing your "Medicare Summary Notices" (MSNs) or your plan's claims statements for payment equipment you never got or no longer have

Visit **Medicare.gov/fraud** for more information about reporting fraud and abuse, or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048.

Notes

Notes

Medicare

You have the right to get Medicare information in an accessible format, like large print, braille, or audio. You also have the right to file a complaint if you feel you've been discriminated against. Visit **Medicare.gov/about-us/accessibility-nondiscrimination-notice**, or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) for more information. TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048.

This product was produced at U.S. taxpayer expense.

CMS Product No. 11046 • April 2026