

Local Coverage Determination (LCD) for Power Mobility Devices (L21271)

Contractor Information

Contractor Name

NHIC, Corp.

[Back to Top](#)**Contractor Number**

16003

Contractor Type

DME MAC

LCD Information

Document Information**LCD ID Number**

L21271

LCD Title

Power Mobility Devices

Contractor's Determination Number

PMD

AMA CPT/ADA CDT Copyright Statement

CPT codes, descriptions and other data only are copyright 2010 American Medical Association (or such other date of publication of CPT). All Rights Reserved. Applicable FARS/DFARS Clauses Apply. Current Dental Terminology, (CDT) (including procedure codes, nomenclature, descriptors and other data contained therein) is copyright by the American Dental Association. © 2002, 2004 American Dental Association. All rights reserved. Applicable FARS/DFARS apply.

Primary Geographic Jurisdiction

Connecticut
District of Columbia
Delaware
Massachusetts
Maryland
Maine
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New York - Entire State
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
Vermont

Oversight Region

Region I

DME Region LCD Covers

Jurisdiction A

Original Determination Effective Date

For services performed on or after 10/01/2006

Original Determination Ending Date**Revision Effective Date**

For services performed on or after 06/01/2011

Revision Ending Date**CMS National Coverage Policy**

CMS Pub. 100-3, Medicare National Coverage Determinations Manual, Chapter 1, Sections 280.3

Indications and Limitations of Coverage and/or Medical Necessity

For any item to be covered by Medicare, it must 1) be eligible for a defined Medicare benefit category, 2) be reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of illness or injury or to improve the functioning of a malformed body member, and 3) meet all other applicable Medicare statutory and regulatory requirements. For the items addressed in this local coverage determination, the criteria for "reasonable and necessary", based on Social Security Act § 1862(a)(1)(A) provisions, are defined by the following indications and limitations of coverage and/or medical necessity.

Refer to the related Policy Article for information on orders and a face-to-face examination.

The term power mobility device (PMD) includes power operated vehicles (POVs) and power wheelchairs (PWCs).

BASIC COVERAGE CRITERIA:

All of the following basic criteria (A-C) must be met for a power mobility device (K0800-K0898) or a push-rim activated power assist device (E0986) to be covered. Additional coverage criteria for specific devices are listed below.

- A. The patient has a mobility limitation that significantly impairs his/her ability to participate in one or more mobility-related activities of daily living (MRADLs) such as toileting, feeding, dressing, grooming, and bathing in customary locations in the home. A mobility limitation is one that:
 - Prevents the patient from accomplishing an MRADL entirely, or
 - Places the patient at reasonably determined heightened risk of morbidity or mortality secondary to the attempts to perform an MRADL; or
 - Prevents the patient from completing an MRADL within a reasonable time frame.
- B. The patient's mobility limitation cannot be sufficiently and safely resolved by the use of an appropriately fitted cane or walker.
- C. The patient does not have sufficient upper extremity function to self-propel an optimally-configured manual wheelchair in the home to perform MRADLs during a typical day.
 - Limitations of strength, endurance, range of motion, or coordination, presence of pain, or deformity or absence of one or both upper extremities are relevant to the assessment of upper extremity function.
 - An optimally-configured manual wheelchair is one with an appropriate wheelbase, device weight, seating options, and other appropriate nonpowered accessories.

POWER OPERATED VEHICLES (K0800-K0808, K0812):

A POV is covered if all of the basic coverage criteria A-C have been met and if criteria D-I are also met.

- D. The patient is able to:
 - Safely transfer to and from a POV, and
 - Operate the tiller steering system, and
 - Maintain postural stability and position while operating the POV in the home.
- E. The patient's mental capabilities (e.g., cognition, judgment) and physical capabilities (e.g., vision) are sufficient for safe mobility using a POV in the home.
- F. The patient's home provides adequate access between rooms, maneuvering space, and surfaces for the operation of the POV that is provided.
- G. The patient's weight is less than or equal to the weight capacity of the POV that is provided and greater than or equal to 95% of the weight capacity of the next lower weight class POV – i.e., a Heavy Duty POV is covered for a patient weighing 285 – 450 pounds; a Very Heavy Duty POV is covered for a patient weighing 428 – 600 pounds.
- H. Use of a POV will significantly improve the patient's ability to participate in MRADLs and the patient will use it in the home.
- I. The patient has not expressed an unwillingness to use a POV in the home.

If a POV will be used inside the home and coverage criteria A-I are not met, it will be denied as not reasonable and necessary.

Group 2 POVs (K0806-K0808) have added capabilities that are not needed for use in the home. Therefore, if a Group 2 POV is provided it will be denied as not reasonable and necessary.

If a POV will only be used outside the home, see related Policy Article for information concerning noncoverage.

POWER WHEELCHAIRS (K0813-K0891, K0898):

A power wheelchair is covered if:

- a. All of the basic coverage criteria A-C are met; and
 - b. The patient does not meet coverage criterion D, E or F for a POV; and
 - c. Either criterion J or K is met; and
 - d. Criteria L, M, N and O are met; and
 - e. Any coverage criteria pertaining to the specific wheelchair type (see below) are met.
-
- J. The patient has the mental and physical capabilities to safely operate the power wheelchair that is provided; or
 - K. If the patient is unable to safely operate the power wheelchair, the patient has a caregiver who is unable to adequately propel an optimally configured manual wheelchair, but is available, willing and able to safely operate the power wheelchair that is provided; and
 - L. The patient's weight is less than or equal to the weight capacity of the power wheelchair that is provided and greater than or equal to 95% of the weight capacity of the next lower weight class PWC – i.e., a Heavy Duty PWC is covered for a patient weighing 285 – 450 pounds; a Very Heavy Duty PWC is covered for a patient weighing 428 – 600 pounds; an Extra Heavy Duty PWC is covered for a patient weighing 570 pounds or more.
 - M. The patient's home provides adequate access between rooms, maneuvering space and surfaces for the operation of the power wheelchair that is provided.
 - N. Use of a power wheelchair will significantly improve the patient's ability to participate in MRADLs and the patient will use it in the home. For patients with severe cognitive and/or physical impairments, participation in MRADLs may require the assistance of a caregiver.
 - O. The patient has not expressed an unwillingness to use a power wheelchair in the home.

If a PWC will be used inside the home and if coverage criteria (a)-(e) are not met, it will be denied as not reasonable and necessary.

If a PWC will only be used outside the home, see related Policy Article for information concerning noncoverage.

SPECIFIC TYPES OF POWER WHEELCHAIRS:

- I. A Group 1 PWC (K0813-K0816) or a Group 2 (K0820-K0829) is covered if all of the coverage criteria (a)-(e) for a PWC are met and the wheelchair is appropriate for the patient's weight.
- II. A Group 2 Single Power Option PWC (K0835 – K0840) is covered if all of the coverage criteria (a)-(e) for a PWC are met and if:

- A. Criterion 1 or 2 is met; and
- B. Criteria 3 and 4 are met.
 - 1. The patient requires a drive control interface other than a hand or chin-operated standard proportional joystick (examples include but are not limited to head control, sip and puff, switch control).
 - 2. The patient meets coverage criteria for a power tilt or a power recline seating system (see Wheelchair Options and Accessories policy for coverage criteria) and the system is being used on the wheelchair.
 - 3. The patient has had a specialty evaluation that was performed by a licensed/certified medical professional, such as a physical therapist (PT) or occupational therapist (OT), or physician who has specific training and experience in rehabilitation wheelchair evaluations and that documents the medical necessity for the wheelchair and its special features (see Documentation Requirements section). The PT, OT or physician may have no financial relationship with the supplier.
 - 4. The wheelchair is provided by a supplier that employs a RESNA-certified Assistive Technology Professional (ATP) who specializes in wheelchairs and who has direct, in-person involvement in the wheelchair selection for the patient.

If a Group 2 Single Power Option PWC is provided and if criterion II(A) or II(B) is not met (including but not limited to situations in which it is only provided to accommodate a power seat elevation feature, a power standing feature, or power elevating legrests), it will be denied as not reasonable and necessary.

- III. A Group 2 Multiple Power Option PWC (K0841-K0843) is covered if all of the coverage criteria (a)-(e) for a PWC are met and if:

- A. Criterion 1 or 2 is met; and
- B. Criteria 3 and 4 are met.
 - 1. The patient meets coverage criteria for a power tilt and recline seating system (see Wheelchair Options and Accessories policy) and the system is being used on the wheelchair.
 - 2. The patient uses a ventilator which is mounted on the wheelchair.
 - 3. The patient has had a specialty evaluation that was performed by a licensed/certified medical professional, such as a PT or OT, or physician who has specific training and experience in rehabilitation wheelchair evaluations and that documents the medical necessity for the wheelchair and its special features (see Documentation Requirements section). The PT, OT or physician may have no financial relationship with the supplier.
 - 4. The wheelchair is provided by a supplier that employs a RESNA-certified Assistive Technology Professional (ATP) who specializes in wheelchairs and who has direct, in-person involvement in the wheelchair selection for the patient.

If a Group 2 Multiple Power Option PWC is provided and if criterion III(A) or III(B) is not met, it will be denied as not reasonable and necessary.

- IV. A Group 3 PWC with no power options (K0848-K0855) is covered if:

- A. All of the coverage criteria (a)-(e) for a PWC are met; and
- B. The patient's mobility limitation is due to a neurological condition, myopathy or congenital skeletal deformity; and
- C. The patient has had a specialty evaluation that was performed by a licensed/certified medical professional, such as a PT or OT, or physician who has specific training and experience in rehabilitation wheelchair evaluations and that documents the medical necessity for the wheelchair and its special features (see Documentation Requirements section). The PT, OT or physician may have no financial relationship with the supplier; and
- D. The wheelchair is provided by a supplier that employs a RESNA-certified Assistive Technology Professional (ATP) who specializes in wheelchairs and who has direct, in-person involvement in the wheelchair selection for the patient.

If a Group 3 PWC is provided and if criteria (IV)(A) – (IV)(D) are not met, it will be denied as not reasonable and necessary.

- V. A Group 3 PWC with Single Power Option (K0856-K0860) or with Multiple Power Options (K0861-K0864) is covered if:
 - A. The Group 3 criteria IV(A) and IV(B) are met; and
 - B. The Group 2 Single Power Option (criteria II[A] and II[B]) or Multiple Power Options (criteria III[A] and III[B]) (respectively) are met.

If a Group 3 Single Power Option or Multiple Power Options PWC is provided and if criterion V(A) or (V)(B) is not met, it will be denied as not reasonable and necessary.

- VI. Group 4 PWCs (K0868-K0886) have added capabilities that are not needed for use in the home. Therefore, if these wheelchairs are provided they will be denied as not reasonable and necessary.

- VII. A Group 5 (Pediatric) PWC with Single Power Option (K0890) or with Multiple Power Options (K0891) is covered if:
 - A. All the coverage criteria (a)-(e) for a PWC are met; and
 - B. The patient is expected to grow in height; and
 - C. The Group 2 Single Power Option (criteria II[A] and II[B]) or Multiple Power Options (criteria III[A] and III[B]) (respectively) are met.

If a Group 5 PWC is provided and if criteria (VII)(A) – (VII)(C) are not met, it will be denied as not reasonable and necessary.

- VIII. A push-rim activated power assist device (E0986) for a manual wheelchair is covered if all of the following criteria are met:
 - A. All of the criteria for a power mobility device listed in the Basic Coverage Criteria section are met; and
 - B. The patient has been self-propelling in a manual wheelchair for at least one year; and
 - C. The patient has had a specialty evaluation that was performed by a licensed/certified medical professional, such as a PT or OT, or physician who has specific training and experience in rehabilitation wheelchair evaluations and that documents the need for the device in the patient's home. The PT, OT or physician may have no financial relationship with the supplier; and
 - D. The wheelchair is provided by a supplier that employs a RESNA-certified Assistive Technology Professional (ATP) who specializes in wheelchairs and who has direct, in-person involvement in the wheelchair selection for the patient.

If all of the coverage criteria are not met, it will be denied as not reasonable and necessary.

MISCELLANEOUS:

A POV or power wheelchair with Captain's Chair is not appropriate for a patient who needs a separate wheelchair seat and/or back cushion. If a skin protection and/or positioning seat or back cushion that meets coverage criteria (see Wheelchair Seating LCD) is provided with a POV or a power wheelchair with Captain's Chair, the POV or PWC will be denied as not reasonable and necessary. (Refer to Wheelchair Seating LCD and Policy Article for information concerning coverage of general use, skin protection or positioning cushions when they are provided with a POV or power wheelchair with Captain's Chair.)

For patients who do not have special skin protection or positioning needs, a power wheelchair with Captain's Chair provides appropriate support. Therefore, if a general use cushion is provided with a power wheelchair with a sling/solid seat/back instead of Captain's Chair, the wheelchair and the cushion(s) will be covered only if either criterion 1 or criterion 2 is met:

1. The cushion is provided with a covered power wheelchair base that is not available in a Captain's Chair model – i.e., codes K0839, K0840, K0843, K0860 – K0864, K0870, K0871, K0879, K0880, K0886, K0890, K0891; or
2. A skin protection and/or positioning seat or back cushion that meets coverage criteria is provided.

If one of these criteria is not met, both the power wheelchair with a sling/solid seat and the general use cushion will be denied as not reasonable and necessary.

If a heavy duty, very heavy duty, or extra heavy duty PWC or POV is provided and if the patient's weight is outside the range listed in criterion G or L above (i.e., for heavy duty – 285 – 400 pounds, for very heavy duty – 428 – 600 pounds, for extra heavy duty – 570 pounds or more), it will be denied as not reasonable and necessary.

Refer to the related Policy Article for information concerning coverage of Group 2 PWCs with seat elevators (K0830, K0831).

The delivery of the PMD must be within 120 days following completion of the face-to-face examination. (Exception: For PWCs that go through the Advance Determination of Medicare Coverage (ADMC) process and receive an affirmative determination, the delivery must be within 6 months following the determination.)

An add-on to convert a manual wheelchair to a joystick-controlled power mobility device (E0983) or to a tiller-controlled power mobility device (E0984) will be denied as not reasonable and necessary.

Payment is made for only one wheelchair at a time. Backup chairs are denied as not reasonable and necessary.

One month's rental of a PWC or POV (K0462) is covered if a patient-owned wheelchair is being repaired. Payment is based on the type of replacement device that is provided but will not exceed the rental allowance for the power mobility device that is being repaired.

A power mobility device will be denied as not reasonable and necessary if the underlying condition is reversible and the length of need is less than 3 months (e.g., following lower extremity surgery which limits ambulation).

A POV or PWC which has not been reviewed by the PDAC or which has been reviewed by the PDAC and found not to meet the definition of a specific POV/PWC (K0899) will be denied as not reasonable and necessary.

[Back to Top](#)

Coding Information

Bill Type Codes:

Contractors may specify Bill Types to help providers identify those Bill Types typically used to report this service. Absence of a Bill Type does not guarantee that the policy does not apply to that Bill Type. Complete absence of all Bill Types indicates that coverage is not influenced by Bill Type and the policy should be assumed to apply equally to all claims.

Revenue Codes:

Contractors may specify Revenue Codes to help providers identify those Revenue Codes typically used to report this service. In most instances Revenue Codes are purely advisory; unless specified in the policy services reported under other Revenue Codes are equally subject to this coverage determination. Complete absence of all Revenue Codes indicates that coverage is not influenced by Revenue Code and the policy should be assumed to apply equally to all Revenue Codes.

CPT/HCPCS Codes**GroupName**

The appearance of a code in this section does not necessarily indicate coverage.

HCPCS MODIFIERS:

EY – No physician or other licensed health care provider order for this item or service

GA - Waiver of liability statement issued as required by payer policy, individual case

GY – Item or service statutorily excluded or doesn't meet the definition of any Medicare benefit category

GZ - Item or service expected to be denied as not reasonable and necessary

KX – Requirements specified in the medical policy have been met

HCPCS CODES:

E0983	MANUAL WHEELCHAIR ACCESSORY, POWER ADD-ON TO CONVERT MANUAL WHEELCHAIR TO MOTORIZED WHEELCHAIR, JOYSTICK CONTROL
E0984	MANUAL WHEELCHAIR ACCESSORY, POWER ADD-ON TO CONVERT MANUAL WHEELCHAIR TO MOTORIZED WHEELCHAIR, TILLER CONTROL
E0986	MANUAL WHEELCHAIR ACCESSORY, PUSH ACTIVATED POWER ASSIST, EACH
K0800	POWER OPERATED VEHICLE, GROUP 1 STANDARD, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY UP TO AND INCLUDING 300 POUNDS
K0801	POWER OPERATED VEHICLE, GROUP 1 HEAVY DUTY, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY 301 TO 450 POUNDS
K0802	POWER OPERATED VEHICLE, GROUP 1 VERY HEAVY DUTY, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY 451 TO 600 POUNDS
K0806	POWER OPERATED VEHICLE, GROUP 2 STANDARD, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY UP TO AND INCLUDING 300 POUNDS
K0807	POWER OPERATED VEHICLE, GROUP 2 HEAVY DUTY, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY 301 TO 450 POUNDS
K0808	POWER OPERATED VEHICLE, GROUP 2 VERY HEAVY DUTY, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY 451 TO 600 POUNDS
K0812	POWER OPERATED VEHICLE, NOT OTHERWISE CLASSIFIED
K0813	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 1 STANDARD, PORTABLE, SLING/SOLID SEAT AND BACK, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY UP TO AND INCLUDING 300 POUNDS
K0814	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 1 STANDARD, PORTABLE, CAPTAINS CHAIR, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY UP TO AND INCLUDING 300 POUNDS
K0815	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 1 STANDARD, SLING/SOLID SEAT AND BACK, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY UP TO AND INCLUDING 300 POUNDS
K0816	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 1 STANDARD, CAPTAINS CHAIR, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY UP TO AND INCLUDING 300 POUNDS
K0820	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 2 STANDARD, PORTABLE, SLING/SOLID SEAT/BACK, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY UP TO AND INCLUDING 300 POUNDS
K0821	

	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 2 STANDARD, PORTABLE, CAPTAINS CHAIR, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY UP TO AND INCLUDING 300 POUNDS
K0822	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 2 STANDARD, SLING/SOLID SEAT/BACK, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY UP TO AND INCLUDING 300 POUNDS
K0823	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 2 STANDARD, CAPTAINS CHAIR, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY UP TO AND INCLUDING 300 POUNDS
K0824	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 2 HEAVY DUTY, SLING/SOLID SEAT/BACK, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY 301 TO 450 POUNDS
K0825	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 2 HEAVY DUTY, CAPTAINS CHAIR, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY 301 TO 450 POUNDS
K0826	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 2 VERY HEAVY DUTY, SLING/SOLID SEAT/BACK, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY 451 TO 600 POUNDS
K0827	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 2 VERY HEAVY DUTY, CAPTAINS CHAIR, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY 451 TO 600 POUNDS
K0828	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 2 EXTRA HEAVY DUTY, SLING/SOLID SEAT/BACK, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY 601 POUNDS OR MORE
K0829	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 2 EXTRA HEAVY DUTY, CAPTAINS CHAIR, PATIENT WEIGHT 601 POUNDS OR MORE
K0830	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 2 STANDARD, SEAT ELEVATOR, SLING/SOLID SEAT/BACK, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY UP TO AND INCLUDING 300 POUNDS
K0831	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 2 STANDARD, SEAT ELEVATOR, CAPTAINS CHAIR, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY UP TO AND INCLUDING 300 POUNDS
K0835	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 2 STANDARD, SINGLE POWER OPTION, SLING/SOLID SEAT/BACK, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY UP TO AND INCLUDING 300 POUNDS
K0836	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 2 STANDARD, SINGLE POWER OPTION, CAPTAINS CHAIR, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY UP TO AND INCLUDING 300 POUNDS
K0837	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 2 HEAVY DUTY, SINGLE POWER OPTION, SLING/SOLID SEAT/BACK, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY 301 TO 450 POUNDS
K0838	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 2 HEAVY DUTY, SINGLE POWER OPTION, CAPTAINS CHAIR, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY 301 TO 450 POUNDS
K0839	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 2 VERY HEAVY DUTY, SINGLE POWER OPTION SLING/SOLID SEAT/BACK, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY 451 TO 600 POUNDS
K0840	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 2 EXTRA HEAVY DUTY, SINGLE POWER OPTION, SLING/SOLID SEAT/BACK, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY 601 POUNDS OR MORE
K0841	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 2 STANDARD, MULTIPLE POWER OPTION, SLING/SOLID SEAT/BACK, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY UP TO AND INCLUDING 300 POUNDS
K0842	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 2 STANDARD, MULTIPLE POWER OPTION, CAPTAINS CHAIR, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY UP TO AND INCLUDING 300 POUNDS
K0843	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 2 HEAVY DUTY, MULTIPLE POWER OPTION, SLING/SOLID SEAT/BACK, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY 301 TO 450 POUNDS
K0848	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 3 STANDARD, SLING/SOLID SEAT/BACK, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY UP TO AND INCLUDING 300 POUNDS
K0849	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 3 STANDARD, CAPTAINS CHAIR, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY UP TO AND INCLUDING 300 POUNDS
K0850	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 3 HEAVY DUTY, SLING/SOLID SEAT/BACK, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY 301 TO 450 POUNDS
K0851	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 3 HEAVY DUTY, CAPTAINS CHAIR, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY 301 TO 450 POUNDS
K0852	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 3 VERY HEAVY DUTY, SLING/SOLID SEAT/BACK, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY 451 TO 600 POUNDS
K0853	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 3 VERY HEAVY DUTY, CAPTAINS CHAIR, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY 451 TO 600 POUNDS
K0854	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 3 EXTRA HEAVY DUTY, SLING/SOLID SEAT/BACK, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY 601 POUNDS OR MORE
K0855	

	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 3 EXTRA HEAVY DUTY, CAPTAINS CHAIR, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY 601 POUNDS OR MORE
K0856	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 3 STANDARD, SINGLE POWER OPTION, SLING/SOLID SEAT/BACK, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY UP TO AND INCLUDING 300 POUNDS
K0857	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 3 STANDARD, SINGLE POWER OPTION, CAPTAINS CHAIR, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY UP TO AND INCLUDING 300 POUNDS
K0858	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 3 HEAVY DUTY, SINGLE POWER OPTION, SLING/SOLID SEAT/BACK, PATIENT WEIGHT 301 TO 450 POUNDS
K0859	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 3 HEAVY DUTY, SINGLE POWER OPTION, CAPTAINS CHAIR, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY 301 TO 450 POUNDS
K0860	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 3 VERY HEAVY DUTY, SINGLE POWER OPTION, SLING/SOLID SEAT/BACK, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY 451 TO 600 POUNDS
K0861	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 3 STANDARD, MULTIPLE POWER OPTION, SLING/SOLID SEAT/BACK, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY UP TO AND INCLUDING 300 POUNDS
K0862	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 3 HEAVY DUTY, MULTIPLE POWER OPTION, SLING/SOLID SEAT/BACK, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY 301 TO 450 POUNDS
K0863	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 3 VERY HEAVY DUTY, MULTIPLE POWER OPTION, SLING/SOLID SEAT/BACK, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY 451 TO 600 POUNDS
K0864	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 3 EXTRA HEAVY DUTY, MULTIPLE POWER OPTION, SLING/SOLID SEAT/BACK, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY 601 POUNDS OR MORE
K0868	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 4 STANDARD, SLING/SOLID SEAT/BACK, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY UP TO AND INCLUDING 300 POUNDS
K0869	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 4 STANDARD, CAPTAINS CHAIR, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY UP TO AND INCLUDING 300 POUNDS
K0870	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 4 HEAVY DUTY, SLING/SOLID SEAT/BACK, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY 301 TO 450 POUNDS
K0871	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 4 VERY HEAVY DUTY, SLING/SOLID SEAT/BACK, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY 451 TO 600 POUNDS
K0877	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 4 STANDARD, SINGLE POWER OPTION, SLING/SOLID SEAT/BACK, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY UP TO AND INCLUDING 300 POUNDS
K0878	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 4 STANDARD, SINGLE POWER OPTION, CAPTAINS CHAIR, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY UP TO AND INCLUDING 300 POUNDS
K0879	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 4 HEAVY DUTY, SINGLE POWER OPTION, SLING/SOLID SEAT/BACK, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY 301 TO 450 POUNDS
K0880	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 4 VERY HEAVY DUTY, SINGLE POWER OPTION, SLING/SOLID SEAT/BACK, PATIENT WEIGHT 451 TO 600 POUNDS
K0884	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 4 STANDARD, MULTIPLE POWER OPTION, SLING/SOLID SEAT/BACK, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY UP TO AND INCLUDING 300 POUNDS
K0885	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 4 STANDARD, MULTIPLE POWER OPTION, CAPTAINS CHAIR, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY UP TO AND INCLUDING 300 POUNDS
K0886	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 4 HEAVY DUTY, MULTIPLE POWER OPTION, SLING/SOLID SEAT/BACK, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY 301 TO 450 POUNDS
K0890	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 5 PEDIATRIC, SINGLE POWER OPTION, SLING/SOLID SEAT/BACK, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY UP TO AND INCLUDING 125 POUNDS
K0891	POWER WHEELCHAIR, GROUP 5 PEDIATRIC, MULTIPLE POWER OPTION, SLING/SOLID SEAT/BACK, PATIENT WEIGHT CAPACITY UP TO AND INCLUDING 125 POUNDS
K0898	POWER WHEELCHAIR, NOT OTHERWISE CLASSIFIED
K0899	POWER MOBILITY DEVICE, NOT CODED BY DME PDAC OR DOES NOT MEET CRITERIA

ICD-9 Codes that Support Medical Necessity

Not specified.

AsteriskNoteText

Diagnoses that Support Medical Necessity

Not specified.

ICD-9 Codes that DO NOT Support Medical Necessity

Not specified.

ICD-9 Codes that DO NOT Support Medical Necessity Asterisk Explanation

Diagnoses that DO NOT Support Medical Necessity

Not specified.

[Back to Top](#)

General Information

Documentations Requirements

Section 1833(e) of the Social Security Act precludes payment to any provider of services unless "there has been furnished such information as may be necessary in order to determine the amounts due such provider." It is expected that the patient's medical records will reflect the need for the care provided. The patient's medical records include the physician's office records, hospital records, nursing home records, home health agency records, records from other healthcare professionals and test reports. This documentation must be available upon request.

ORDERS:

The order, referred to as the 7-element order, that the supplier must receive within 45 days after completion of the face-to-face examination (see Policy Article) must contain all of the following elements:

Beneficiary's name

Description of the item that is ordered. This may be general – e.g., "power operated vehicle", "power wheelchair", or "power mobility device"– or may be more specific.

Date of the face-to-face examination

Pertinent diagnoses/conditions that relate to the need for the POV or power wheelchair

Length of need

Physician's signature

Date of physician signature

The Supplier may provide a template order listing the seven required elements but is prohibited from completing any part of it. The treating physician completing the face-to-face requirements must write the 7-element order. The 7-element order may only be written after the completion of the face-to-face exam requirements. Refer to the Policy Article NONMEDICAL NECESSITY COVERAGE AND PAYMENT RULES section for information regarding the statutory requirements for PMDs.

A date stamp or equivalent must be used to document receipt date.

If a written order containing all of these required elements is not received by the supplier within 45 days after completion of the face-to-face examination an EY modifier must be added to the HCPCS codes for the power mobility device and all accessories. The order must be available on request.

Once the supplier has determined the specific power mobility device that is appropriate for the patient based on the physician's 7-element order, the supplier must prepare a written document (termed a detailed product description). This detailed product description (DPD) must comply with the requirements for a detailed written order as outlined in the Supplier Manual and CMS' Program Integrity Manual (Internet-Only Manual, Pub. 100-8), Chapter 5. Regardless of the form of the description, there must be sufficient detail to identify the item(s) in order to determine that the item(s) dispensed is properly coded.

The physician must sign and date the detailed product description and the supplier must receive it prior to delivery of the PWC or POV. A date stamp or equivalent must be used to document the supplier receipt date. The detailed product description must be available on request.

FACE-TO-FACE EXAMINATION:

The report of the face-to-face examination (see Policy Article) should provide information relating to the following questions.

For POVs and PWCs	What is this patient's mobility limitation and how does it interfere with the performance of activities of daily living?
For POVs and PWCs	Why can't a cane or walker meet this patient's mobility needs in the home?
For POVs and PWCs	Why can't a manual wheelchair meet this patient's mobility needs in the home?
For POVs	Does this patient have the physical and mental abilities to transfer into a POV and to operate it safely in the home?
For PWCs	Why can't a POV (scooter) meet this patient's mobility needs in the home?
For PWCs	Does this patient have the physical and mental abilities to operate a power wheelchair safely in the home?

The report should provide pertinent information about the following elements, but may include other details. Each element would not have to be addressed in every evaluation.

History of the present condition(s) and past medical history that is relevant to mobility needs:

- Symptoms that limit ambulation
- Diagnoses that are responsible for these symptoms
- Medications or other treatment for these symptoms
- Progression of ambulation difficulty over time
- Other diagnoses that may relate to ambulatory problems
- How far the patient can walk without stopping
- Pace of ambulation
- What ambulatory assistance (cane, walker, wheelchair, caregiver) is currently used
- What has changed to now require use of a power mobility device
- Ability to stand up from a seated position without assistance
- Description of the home setting and the ability to perform activities of daily living in the home

Physical examination that is relevant to mobility needs:

- Weight and height
- Cardiopulmonary examination
- Musculoskeletal examination
 - Arm and leg strength and range of motion
- Neurological examination
 - Gait
 - Balance and coordination

The evaluation should be tailored to the individual patient's conditions. The history should paint a picture of your patient's functional abilities and limitations on a typical day. It should contain as much objective data as possible. The physical examination should be focused on the body systems that are responsible for the patient's ambulatory difficulty or impact on the patient's ambulatory ability.

A date stamp or equivalent must be used to document the date that the supplier receives the report of the face-to-face examination. The written report of this examination must be available on request.

Physicians shall document the examination in a detailed narrative note in their charts in the format that they use for other entries. The note must clearly indicate that a major reason for the visit was a mobility examination.

Many suppliers have created forms which have not been approved by CMS which they send to physicians and ask them to complete. Even if the physician completes this type of form and puts it in his/her chart, this supplier-generated form is not a substitute for the comprehensive medical record as noted above. Suppliers are encouraged to help educate physicians on the type of information that is needed to document a patient's mobility needs.

Physicians shall also provide reports of pertinent laboratory tests, x-rays, and/or other diagnostic tests (e.g., pulmonary function tests, cardiac stress test, electromyogram, etc.) performed in the course of management of the patient. Upon request, suppliers shall provide notes from prior visits to give a historical perspective of the progression of disease over time and to corroborate the information in the face-to-face examination.

If the report of a licensed/certified medical professional (LCMP) examination is to be considered as part of the face-to-face examination (see Policy Article), there must be a signed and dated attestation by the supplier or LCMP that the LCMP has no financial relationship with the supplier. (Note: Evaluations performed by an LCMP who has a financial relationship with the supplier may be submitted to provide additional clinical information, but will not be considered as part of the face-to-face examination by the physician.)

Although patients who qualify for coverage of a power mobility device may use that device outside the home, because Medicare's coverage of a wheelchair or POV is determined solely by the patient's mobility needs within the home, the examination must clearly distinguish the patient's abilities and needs within the home from any additional needs for use outside the home.

SPECIALTY EVALUATION:

The specialty evaluation that is required for patients who receive a Group 2 Single Power Option or Multiple Power Options PWC, any Group 3 or a push-rim activated power assist device is in addition to the requirement for the face-to-face examination. The specialty evaluation provides detailed information explaining why each specific option or accessory – i.e., power seating system, alternate drive control interface, or push-rim activated power assist – is needed to address the patient's mobility limitation. There must be a written report of this evaluation available on request.

HOME ASSESSMENT:

Prior to or at the time of delivery of a POV or PWC, the supplier or practitioner must perform an on-site evaluation of the patient's home to verify that the patient can adequately maneuver the device that is provided considering physical layout, doorway width, doorway thresholds, and surfaces. There must be a written report of this evaluation available on request.

KX, GA, GY, AND GZ MODIFIERS:

If the requirements related to a face-to-face examination (see related Policy Article) have not been met, the GY modifier must be added to the codes for the power mobility device and all accessories.

If the power mobility device or push-rim activated power assist device that is provided is only needed for mobility outside the home, the GY modifier must be added to the codes for the item and all accessories.

A KX modifier may be added to the code for a power mobility device and all accessories only if one of the following conditions is met:

1. If all of the coverage criteria specified in this LCD have been met for the product that is provided;
or
2. If there is an affirmative Advance Determination of Medicare Coverage (ADMC) for the product that is provided.

If the requirements for use of the KX modifier or GY modifier are not met, the GA or GZ modifier must be added to the code. When there is an expectation of a medical necessity denial, suppliers must enter GA on the claim line if they have obtained a properly executed Advance Beneficiary Notice (ABN) or GZ if they have not obtained a valid ABN.

Claim lines billed without a KX, GA, GY, or GZ modifier will be rejected as missing information.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The following power wheelchairs are eligible for Advance Determination of Medicare Coverage (ADMC):

1. A Group 2, 3, 4 or 5 Single Power Option or Multiple Power Options wheelchair (K0835-K0843, K0856-K0864, K0877-K0891) – whether or not a power seating system will be provided at the time of initial issue.
2. A Group 3 or 4 No Power Option wheelchair (K0848-K0855, K0868-K0871) that will be provided with an alternative drive control interface at the time of initial issue.

Refer to the ADMC section in the Supplier Manual for details concerning the ADMC process.

Refer to the Supplier Manual for more information on documentation requirements.

Appendices

Utilization Guidelines Refer to Indications and Limitations of Coverage and/or Medical Necessity.

Sources of Information and Basis for Decision

Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Start Date of Comment Period 09/14/2005

End Date of Comment Period 10/31/2005

Start Date of Notice Period 08/15/2006

Revision History Number 005

Revision History Explanation Revision Effective Date: 06/01/2011

INDICATIONS AND LIMITATIONS OF COVERAGE:

Added: Denial statement for Group 2 POVs

Added: Denial statement for Group 4 PWCs

DOCUMENTATION

Deleted: KX modifier use with Group 4 PWCs

Revised: Requirements for the detailed product description

Added: Clarification of 7-element order requirements

Revision Effective Date: 02/04/2011

INDICATIONS AND LIMITATIONS OF COVERAGE:

Revised: Coverage criteria relating to patient weight for POVs and PWCs

Deleted: Least costly alternative language for multiple codes.

Moved: Denial information on Group 2 POVs, Group 2 PWCs with Seat Elevators, and Group 4 PWCs to the Policy Article

HCPCS CODES AND MODIFIERS:

Revised: GA modifier

Revision Effective Date: 10/01/2009 (January 2010 Revision)

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS:

Revised: Wording of one element of the detailed product description.

Revision Effective Date: 10/01/2009

HCPCS CODES AND MODIFIERS:

Added: GA and GZ modifiers.

Revised: KX modifier.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS:

Revised: Requirements for detailed product description.

Added: Instructions for use of the GA and GZ modifiers.

Revision Effective Date: 01/01/2009

INDICATIONS AND LIMITATIONS OF COVERAGE:

Changed: Terminology from Assistive Technology Supplier/Practitioner to Assistive Technology Professional.

Changed: References from SADMERC to PDAC.

HCPCS CODES AND MODIFIERS:

Revised: K0899

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS:

Revised: Guidance concerning the content of the face-to-face examination.

Revision Effective Date: 04/01/2008

INDICATIONS AND LIMITATIONS OF COVERAGE:

Deleted: Requirement for ATP-certified individual to perform specialty evaluation.

Clarified: Requirement for ATS or ATP-certified individual to be involved with the evaluation of patients for rehab PWCs.

03/01/2008 - In accordance with Section 911 of the Medicare Modernization Act, this policy was transitioned to DME MAC NHIC (16003) LCD L21271 from DME PSC TriCenturion (77011) LCD L21271.

Revision Effective Date: 07/01/2007

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS:

Removed: DMERC reference.

06/01/2007 - In accordance with Section 911 of the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003, Virginia and West Virginia were transitioned from DME PSC TriCenturion (77011) to DME PSC TrustSolutions (77012).

Revision Effective Date: 11/15/2006 (November publication)

INDICATIONS AND LIMITATIONS OF COVERAGE:

Revised: Criterion for Single Power Option PWCs to remove the reference to the number of actuators.

Revised: Criterion for Multiple Power Option PWCs to indicate that coverage is determined by the need for a combination power tilt and recline power seating system regardless of the number of actuators.

Removed: The inability to stand and pivot to transfer as a coverage criterion for Group 3 PWCs and added congenital orthopedic deformities to the list of covered conditions.

HCPCS CODES AND MODIFIERS:

Corrected: Narrative description for K0825.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS:

Revised: Chairs that are available for ADMC.

Revision Effective Date: 11/15/2006 (September publication)

Implementation of the LCD has been changed from 10/1/2006.

INDICATIONS AND LIMITATIONS OF COVERAGE:

Eliminated: Downcoding of Group 2 to Group 1 PWCs.

Indicated: If a Group 3 or Group 4 PWC were downcoded to a lower level PWC, it would be a Group 2 PWC.

Deleted: Several statements in the Least Costly Alternative section.

Eliminated: Downcoding of portable to nonportable wheelchairs.

Indicated: A Group 2 PWC with seat elevator would be downcoded to a Group 2 PWC without seat elevator.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS:

Revised: Instructions for detailed product description.

Revised: Instructions for use of KX modifier.

03/01/2006 - In accordance with Section 911 of the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003, this policy was transitioned to DME PSC TriCenturion (77011) from DMERC Tricenturion (77011).

06/26/2010 - The description for CPT/HCPCS code K0899 was changed in group 1

11/21/2010 - For the following CPT/HCPCS codes either the short description and/or the long description was changed. Depending on which description is used in this LCD, there may not be any change in how the code displays in the document:

K0899 descriptor was changed in Group 1

Reason for Change

Last Reviewed On Date

Related Documents

Article(s)

[A36239 - Power Mobility Devices - Policy Article - Effective June 2011](#)

LCD Attachments

There are no attachments for this LCD.

[Back to Top](#)

All Versions

Updated on 05/06/2011 with effective dates 06/01/2011 - N/A

[Updated on 12/10/2010 with effective dates 02/04/2011 - 05/31/2011](#)

[Updated on 11/21/2010 with effective dates 10/01/2009 - 02/03/2011](#)

[Updated on 06/27/2010 with effective dates 10/01/2009 - N/A](#)

[Updated on 01/22/2010 with effective dates 10/01/2009 - N/A](#)

[Updated on 07/24/2009 with effective dates 10/01/2009 - N/A](#)

[Updated on 07/23/2009 with effective dates 10/01/2009 - N/A](#)

[Updated on 11/26/2008 with effective dates 01/01/2009 - 09/30/2009](#)

[Updated on 11/24/2008 with effective dates 01/01/2009 - N/A](#)

Some older versions have been archived. Please visit the [MCD Archive Site](#) to retrieve them.

Read the [LCD Disclaimer](#)

[Back to Top](#)

Local Coverage Article for Power Mobility Devices - Policy Article - Effective June 2011 (A36239)

Contractor Information

Contractor Name

NHIC, Corp.

[Back to Top](#)

Contractor Number

16003

Contractor Type

DME MAC

Article Information

General Information**Article ID Number**

A36239

Article Type

Article

Key Article

Yes

Article Title

Power Mobility Devices - Policy Article - Effective June 2011

AMA CPT / ADA CDT Copyright Statement

CPT codes, descriptions and other data only are copyright 2010 American Medical Association (or such other date of publication of CPT). All Rights Reserved. Applicable FARS/DFARS Clauses Apply. Current Dental Terminology, (CDT) (including procedure codes, nomenclature, descriptors and other data contained therein) is copyright by the American Dental Association. © 2002, 2004 American Dental Association. All rights reserved. Applicable FARS/DFARS apply.

Primary Geographic Jurisdiction

Connecticut
District of Columbia
Delaware
Massachusetts
Maryland
Maine
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New York - Entire State
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
Vermont

DME Region Article Covers

Jurisdiction A

Original Article Effective Date

10/01/2006

Article Revision Effective Date

06/01/2011

Article Text**NON-MEDICAL NECESSITY COVERAGE AND PAYMENT RULES**

For any item to be covered by Medicare, it must 1) be eligible for a defined Medicare benefit category, 2) be reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of illness or injury or to improve the functioning of a malformed body member, and 3) meet all other applicable Medicare statutory and regulatory requirements. Information provided in this policy article relates to determinations other than those based on Social Security Act §1862(a)(1)(A) provisions (i.e. "reasonable and necessary").

Power mobility devices are covered under the Durable Medical Equipment benefit. In order for a beneficiary's equipment to be eligible for reimbursement the reasonable and necessary (R&N) requirements set out in the related Local Coverage Determination must be met. In addition, there are specific statutory payment policy requirements, discussed below, that also must be met.

ORDERS:

The Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003, added section 1834(a)(1)(E)(iv) which provides that payment may not be made for a motorized or power wheelchair unless the practitioner who has conducted the face-to-face examination him or herself writes the 7-element order. It is a statutory requirement that all items of the 7-element order be entered specifically by and only by the practitioner who has conducted the face-to-face requirements. (See below.)

For a POV or power wheelchair to be covered, the supplier must receive from the treating physician a written order, termed the 7-element order, containing all the elements specified in the Documentation Requirements section of the Local Coverage Determination within 45 days after completion of the physician's face-to-face examination and prior to delivery of the device. (Exception: If the examination is performed during a hospital or nursing home stay, the supplier must receive the order within 45 days after discharge.) If these requirements are not met, the claim will be denied as noncovered.

If the detailed product description for the specific device is not obtained prior to delivery, payment will not be made for the item even if the documentation is subsequently obtained. If a similar item is provided by an unrelated supplier who has obtained the required documentation prior to delivery, it will be eligible for coverage.

A power mobility device may not be ordered by a podiatrist. If it is, it will be denied as noncovered.

FACE-TO-FACE EXAMINATION:

For a power operated vehicle (POV) or power wheelchair (PWC) to be covered, the treating physician must conduct a face-to-face examination of the patient before writing the order and the supplier must receive a written report of this examination within 45 days after completion of the face-to-face examination and prior to delivery of the device. If this requirement is not met, the claim will be denied as noncovered. (Exceptions: If this examination is performed during a hospital or nursing home stay, the supplier must receive the report of the examination within 45 days after discharge. If the POV or PWC is a replacement during the 5 year useful lifetime of an item in the same performance group that was previously covered by Medicare, a face-to-face examination is not required. Note: Replacement during an item's useful lifetime is limited to situations involving loss or irreparable damage from a specific accident or natural disaster [e.g., fire, flood, etc.].)

The physician may refer the patient to a licensed/certified medical professional, such as a physical therapist (PT) or occupational therapist (OT), who has experience and training in mobility evaluations to perform part of the face-to-face examination. This person may have no financial relationship with the supplier. (Exception: If the supplier is owned by a hospital, PT or OT working in the inpatient or outpatient hospital setting may perform part of the face-to-face examination.)

If the patient was referred before being seen by the physician, then once the physician has received and reviewed the written report of this examination, the physician must see the patient and perform any additional examination that is needed. The report of the physician's visit shall state concurrence or any disagreement with the LCMP examination. In this situation, the physician must provide the supplier with a copy of both examinations within 45 days after the face-to-face examination with the physician.

If the physician saw the patient to begin the examination before referring the patient to an LCMP, then if the physician sees the patient again in person after receiving the report of the LCMP examination, the 45-day period begins on the date of that second physician visit. However, it is also acceptable for the physician to review the written report of the LCMP examination, to sign and date that report, and to state concurrence or any disagreement with that examination. In this situation, the physician must send a copy of the note from his/her initial visit to evaluate the patient plus the annotated, signed, and dated copy of the LCMP examination to the supplier. The 45-day period begins when the physician signs and dates the LCMP examination.

MISCELLANEOUS:

A seat elevator is a statutorily noncovered option on a power wheelchair. If a PWC with a seat elevator (K0830, K0831) is provided, it will be denied as noncovered.

If any POV or PWC is only for use outside the home, it will be denied as noncovered.

Reimbursement for the wheelchair codes includes all labor charges involved in the assembly of the wheelchair. Reimbursement also includes support services, such as delivery, set-up, and education about the use of the PMD.

Upgrades that are beneficial primarily in allowing the patient to perform leisure or recreational activities are noncovered.

CODING GUIDELINES

DEFINITIONS:

Power Mobility Device (PMD) - Base codes include both integral frame and modular construction type power wheelchairs (PWCs) and power operated vehicles (POVs).

Power Wheelchair - Chair-like battery powered mobility device for people with difficulty walking due to illness or disability, with integrated or modular seating system, electronic steering, and four or more wheel non-highway construction.

Power Operated Vehicle - Chair-like battery powered mobility device for people with difficulty walking due to illness or disability, with integrated seating system, tiller steering, and three or four-wheel non-highway construction.

Patient Weight Capacity – The terms Standard Duty, Heavy Duty, etc., refer to weight capacity, not performance. For example, the term Group 3 heavy duty power wheelchair denotes that the PWC has Group 3 performance characteristics and patient weight handling capacity between 301 and 450 pounds. A device is not required to carry all the weight listed in the class of devices, but must have a patient weight capacity within the range to be included. For example, a PMD that has a weight capacity of 400 pounds is coded as a Heavy Duty device

Portable - A category of devices with lightweight construction or ability to disassemble into lightweight components that allows easy placement into a vehicle for use in a distant location.

Performance Testing - Term used to denote the RESNA based test parameters used to test PMDs. The PMD is expected to meet or exceed the listed performance and durability figures for the category in which it is to be used when tested. There is no requirement to test the PMD with all possible accessories.

Test Standards - Performance and durability acceptance criteria defined by ANSI/RESNA standard testing protocols.

Crash Testing - Successful completion of WC-19 testing.

Top End Speed - Minimum speed acceptable for a given category of devices. It is to be determined by the RESNA test for maximum speed on a flat hard surface.

Range - Minimum distance acceptable for a given category of devices on a single charge of the batteries. It is to be determined by the appropriate RESNA test for range.

Obstacle Climb - Vertical height of a solid obstruction that can be climbed using the standing and/or 0.5 meter run-up RESNA test.

Dynamic Stability Incline - The minimum degree of slope at which the PMD in the most common seating and positioning configuration(s) remains stable at the required patient weight capacity. If the PMD is stable at only one configuration, the PMD may have protective mechanisms that prevent climbing inclines in configurations that may be unstable.

Radius Pivot Turn – The distance required for the smallest turning radius of the PMD base. This measurement is equivalent to the “minimum turning radius” specified in the ANSI/RESNA bulletins.

PWC Basic Equipment Package - Each power wheelchair code is required to include all these items on initial issue (i.e., no separate billing/payment at the time of initial issue, unless otherwise noted). The statement that an item may be separately billed does not necessarily indicate coverage.

- Lap belt or safety belt. Shoulder harness/straps or chest straps/vest may be billed separately.
- Battery charger, single mode
- Complete set of tires and casters, any type
- Legrests. There is no separate billing/payment if fixed, swingaway, or detachable non-elevating legrests with or without calf pad are provided. Elevating legrests may be billed separately.
- Footrests/foot platform. There is no separate billing/payment if fixed, swingaway, or detachable footrests or a foot platform without angle adjustment are provided. There is no separate billing for angle adjustable footplates with Group 1 or 2 PWCs. Angle adjustable footplates may be billed separately with Group 3, 4 and 5 PWCs.
- Armrests. There is no separate billing/ payment if fixed, swingaway, or detachable non-adjustable height armrests with arm pad are provided. Adjustable height armrests may be billed separately.
- Any weight specific components (braces, bars, upholstery, brackets, motors, gears, etc.) as required by patient weight capacity.
- Any seat width and depth. Exception: For Group 3 and 4 PWCs with a sling/solid seat/back, the following may be billed separately:
 - For Standard Duty, seat width and/or depth greater than 20 inches;
 - For Heavy Duty, seat width and/or depth greater than 22 inches;
 - For Very Heavy Duty, seat width and/or depth greater than 24 inches;
 - For Extra Heavy Duty, no separate billing
- Any back width. Exception: For Group 3 and 4 PWCs with a sling/solid seat/back, the following may be billed separately:
 - For Standard Duty, back width greater than 20 inches;
 - For Heavy Duty, back width greater than 22 inches;
 - For Very Heavy Duty, back width greater than 24 inches;
 - For Extra Heavy Duty, no separate billing
- Controller and Input Device. There is no separate billing/payment if a non-expandable controller and a standard proportional joystick (integrated or remote) is provided. An expandable controller, a nonstandard joystick (i.e., nonproportional or mini, compact or short throw proportional), or other alternative control device may be billed separately.

Refer to the bundling table in the Wheelchair Options and Accessories Policy Article for a list of codes that are not separately billable at the time of initial issue of a PWC.

POV Basic Equipment Package - Each POV is to include all these items on initial issue (i.e., no separate billing/payment at the time of initial issue):

- Battery or batteries required for operation
- Battery charger, single mode
- Weight appropriate upholstery and seating system

- Tiller steering
- Non-expandable controller with proportional response to input
- Complete set of tires
- All accessories needed for safe operation

Cross Brace Chair - A type of construction for a power wheelchair in which opposing rigid braces hinge on pivot points to allow the device to fold.

Power Options - Tilt, recline, elevating legrests, seat elevators, or standing systems that may be added to a PWC to accommodate a patient's specific need for seating assistance.

No Power Options – A category of PWCs that is incapable of accommodating a power tilt, recline, seat elevation, or standing system. If a PWC can only accept power elevating legrests, it is considered to be a No Power Option chair.

Single Power Option - A category of PWCs with the capability to accept and operate a power tilt or power recline or power standing or, for Groups 3, 4, and 5, a power seat elevation system, but not a combination power tilt and recline seating system. It may be able to accommodate power elevating legrests, seat elevator, and/or standing system in combination with a power tilt or power recline. A PMD does not have to be able to accommodate all features to qualify for this code. For example, a power wheelchair that can only accommodate a power tilt could qualify for this code.

Multiple Power Options - A category of PWCs with the capability to accept and operate a combination power tilt and recline seating system. It may also be able to accommodate power elevating legrests, a power seat elevator, and/or a power standing system. A PWC does not have to accommodate all features to qualify for this code.

Actuator – A motor that operates a specific function of a power seating system – i.e., tilt, back recline, power sliding back, elevating legrest(s), seat elevation, or standing.

Proportional Control Input Device - A device that transforms a user's drive command (a physical action initiated by the wheelchair user) into a corresponding and comparative movement, both in direction and in speed, of the wheelchair. The input device shall be considered proportional if it allows for both a non-discrete directional command and a non-discrete speed command from a single drive command movement. (Note: In the Wheelchair Options and Accessories policy, the term "interface" is used instead of "control input device".)

Non-Proportional Control Input Device - A device that transforms a user's discrete drive command (a physical action initiated by the wheelchair user, such as activation of a switch) into perceptually discrete changes in the wheelchair's speed, direction, or both.

Alternative Control Device - A device that transforms a user's drive commands by physical actions initiated by the user to input control directions to a power wheelchair that replaces a standard proportional joystick. Includes mini-proportional, compact, or short throw joysticks, head arrays, sip and puff and other types of different input control devices.

Non-Expandable Controller - An electronic system that controls the speed and direction of the power wheelchair drive mechanism. Only a standard proportional joystick (used for hand or chin control) can be used as the input device. This system may be in the form of an integral controller or a remotely placed controller. The non-expandable controller:

- a. May have the ability to control up to 2 power seating actuators through the drive control (for example, seat elevator and single actuator power elevating legrests). (Note: Control of the power seating actuators through the Control Input Device would require the use of an additional component, E2310 or E2311.)
- b. May allow for the incorporation of an attendant control.

Expandable Controller - An electronic system that is capable of accommodating one or more of the following additional functions:

- a. Proportional input devices (e.g., mini, compact, or short throw joysticks, touchpads, chin control, head control, etc.) other than a standard proportional joystick.
- b. Non-proportional input devices (e.g., sip and puff, head array, etc.)
- c. Operate 3 or more powered seating actuators through the drive control. (Note: Control of the power seating actuators through the Control Input Device would require the use of an additional component, E2310 or E2311.)

An expandable controller may also be able to operate one or more of the following:

- d. A separate display (i.e., for alternate control devices).
- e. Other electronic devices (e.g., control of an augmentative speech device or computer through the chair's drive control).
- f. An attendant control.

Integral Control System - Non-expandable wheelchair control system where the joystick is housed in the same box as the controller. The entire unit is located and mounted near the hand of the user. A direct electrical connection is made from the Integral Control box to the motors and batteries through a high power wire harness.

Remotely Placed Controller - Non-expandable or expandable wheelchair control system where the joystick (or alternative control device) and the controller box are housed in separate locations. The joystick (or alternative control device) is connected to the controller through a low power wire harness. The separate controller connects directly to the motors and batteries through a high power wire harness.

Sling Seat/Back - Flexible cloth, vinyl, leather or equal material designed to serve as the support for buttocks or back of the user respectively. They may or may not have thin padding but are not intended to provide cushioning or positioning for the user.

Solid Seat/Back - Rigid metal or plastic material usually covered with cloth, vinyl, leather or equal material, with or without some padding material designed to serve as the support for the buttocks or back of the user respectively. They may or may not have thin padding but are not intended to provide cushioning or positioning for the user. PWCs with an automotive-style back and a solid seat pan are considered as a solid seat/back system, not a Captains Chair.

Captains Chair - A one or two-piece automotive-style seat with rigid frame, cushioning material in both seat and back sections, covered in cloth, vinyl, leather or equal as upholstery, and designed to serve as a complete seating, support, and cushioning system for the user. It may have armrests that can be fixed, swingaway, or detachable. It may or may not have a headrest, either integrated or separate.

Stadium Style Seat - A one or two piece stadium-style seat with rigid frame and cushioning material in both seat and back sections, covered in cloth, vinyl, leather or equal as upholstery, and designed to serve as a complete seating, support, and cushioning system for the user. It may have armrests that can be fixed, swingaway, or detachable. It will not have a headrest. Chairs with stadium style seats are billed using the Captains Chair codes.

Highway Use - Mobility devices that are powered and configured to operate legally on public streets.

Push-rim activated power assist (E0986) – An option for a manual wheelchair in which sensors in specially designed wheels determine the force that is exerted by the patient on the wheel. Additional propulsive and/or braking force is then provided by motors in each wheel. Batteries are included.

CODE-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS:

There are five PWC Groups and two POV Groups. Groups are divided based on performance. Each group of PMDs has subdivisions based on patient weight capacity, seat type, portability, and/or power seating system capability.

All POVs (K0800 – K0808, K0812) must have the specified components and meet the following requirements:

- Have all components in the POV Basic Equipment Package
- Seat Width: Any width appropriate to weight group
- Seat Depth: Any depth appropriate to weight group
- Seat Height: Any height (adjustment requirements-none)
- Back Height: Any height (minimum back height requirement-none)
- Seat to Back Angle: Fixed or adjustable (adjustment requirements – none)
- Meet the following testing requirements:
 - Fatigue test – 200, 000 cycles
 - Drop test – 6,666 cycles

Group 1 POVs (K0800 – K0802) must meet the following requirements:

- Length - less than or equal to 48 inches
- Width - less than or equal to 28 inches
- Minimum Top End Speed - 3 MPH
- Minimum Range - 5 miles
- Minimum Obstacle Climb - 20 mm
- Radius Pivot Turn - less than or equal to 54 inches
- Dynamic Stability Incline - 6 degrees

Group 2 POVs (K0806 – K0808) must meet the following requirements:

- Length - less than or equal to 48 inches
- Width - less than or equal to 28 inches
- Minimum Top End Speed - 4 MPH
- Minimum Range - 10 miles
- Minimum Obstacle Climb - 50 mm
- Radius Pivot Turn - less than or equal to 54 inches
- Dynamic Stability Incline - 7.5 degrees

The following requirements describe the configurations of power wheelchairs as they are coded by the PDAC. Items provided to the beneficiary may include upgraded components which are substituted for the basic component and are billed separately. One example is a power seating system. When this is provided, the base code used should be that with a sling/solid seat/back. Another example is the provision of an expandable controller when the base code includes a non-expandable controller but is capable of an upgrade.

All PWCs (K0813 – K0891, K0898) must have the specified components and meet the following requirements:

- Have all components in the PWC Basic Equipment Package
- Have the seat option listed in the code descriptor
- Seat Width: Any width appropriate to weight group
- Seat Depth: Any depth appropriate to weight group
- Seat Height: Any height (adjustment requirements-none)
- Back Height: Any height (minimum back height requirement-none)
- Seat to Back Angle: Fixed or adjustable (adjustment requirements – none)
- May include semi-reclining back
- Meet the following testing requirements:
 - Fatigue test – 200, 000 cycles
 - Drop test – 6,666 cycles

All Group 1 PWCs (K0813 – K0816) must have the specified components and meet the following requirements:

- Standard integrated or remote proportional joystick
- Non-expandable controller
- Incapable of upgrade to expandable controller
- Incapable of upgrade to alternative control devices
- May have crossbrace construction
- Accommodates non-powered options and seating systems (e.g., recline-only backs, manually elevating legrests) (except captains chairs)
- Length - less than or equal to 40 inches
- Width - less than or equal to 24 inches
- Minimum Top End Speed - 3 MPH
- Minimum Range - 5 miles
- Minimum Obstacle Climb - 20 mm
- Dynamic Stability Incline - 6 degrees

For Group 1 portable wheelchairs (K0813, K0814), the largest single component may not exceed 55 pounds.

All Group 2 PWCs (K0820 – K0843) must have the specified components and meet the following requirements:

- Standard integrated or remote proportional joystick
- May have crossbrace construction

- Accommodates seating and positioning items (e.g., seat and back cushions, headrests, lateral trunk supports, lateral hip supports, medial thigh supports) (except captains chairs)
- Length - less than or equal to 48 inches
- Width - less than or equal to 34 inches
- Minimum Top End Speed - 3 MPH
- Minimum Range - 7 miles
- Minimum Obstacle Climb - 40 mm
- Dynamic Stability Incline - 6 degrees

For Group 2 portable PWCs (K0820, K0821), the largest single component may not exceed 55 pounds.

Group 2 no power option PWCs (K0820 – K0829) must have the specified components and meet the following requirements:

- Non-expandable controller
- Incapable upgrade to expandable controller
- Incapable of upgrade to alternative control devices
- Incapable of accommodating a power tilt, recline, seat elevation, standing system
- Accommodates non-powered options and seating systems (e.g., recline-only backs, manually elevating legrests) (except captains chairs)

Group 2 seat elevator PWCs (K0830, K0831) must have the specified components and meet the following requirements:

- Non-expandable controller
- Incapable of upgrade to expandable controller
- Incapable of upgrade to alternative control devices
- Accommodates only a power seat elevating system

Group 2 single power option PWCs (K0835 – K0840) must have the specified components and meet the following requirements:

- Non-expandable controller
- Capable of upgrade to expandable controller
- Capable of upgrade to alternative control devices
- See Single Power Option definition for seating system capability

Group 2 multiple power option PWCs (K0841 – K0843) must have the specified components and meet the following requirements:

- Non-expandable controller
- Capable of upgrade to expandable controller
- Capable of upgrade to alternative control devices
- See Multiple Power Options definition for seating system capability
- Accommodates a ventilator

All Group 3 PWCs (K0848 – K0864) must have the specified components and meet the following requirements:

- Standard integrated or remote proportional joystick
- Non-expandable controller
- Capable of upgrade to expandable controller
- Capable of upgrade to alternative control devices
- May not have crossbrace construction
- Accommodates seating and positioning items (e.g., seat and back cushions, headrests, lateral trunk supports, lateral hip supports, medial thigh supports) (except captains chairs)
- Drive wheel suspension to reduce vibration
- Length - less than or equal to 48 inches
- Width - less than or equal to 34 inches
- Minimum Top End Speed - 4.5 MPH
- Minimum Range - 12 miles
- Minimum Obstacle Climb - 60 mm
- Dynamic Stability Incline - 7.5 degrees

All Group 4 PWCs (K0868 – K0886) must have the specified components and meet the following requirements:

- Standard integrated or remote proportional joystick
- Non-expandable controller

- Capable of upgrade to expandable controller
- Capable of upgrade to alternative control devices
- May not have crossbrace construction
- Accommodates seating and positioning items (e.g., seat and back cushions, headrests, lateral trunk supports, lateral hip supports, medial thigh supports) (except captains chairs)
- Drive wheel suspension to reduce vibration
- Length - less than or equal to 48 inches
- Width - less than or equal to 34 inches
- Minimum Top End Speed - 6 MPH
- Minimum Range - 16 miles
- Minimum Obstacle Climb - 75 mm
- Dynamic Stability Incline - 9 degrees

Group 3 and 4 no power option PWCs (K0848 – K0855, K0868 – K0871) must have the specified components and meet the following requirements:

- Incapable of accommodating a power tilt, recline, seat elevation, standing system
- Accommodates non-powered options and seating systems (e.g., recline-only backs, manually elevating legrests)

Group 3 and 4 single power option PWCs (K0856 – K0860, K0877 – K0880) must have the specified components and meet the following requirements:

- See Single Power Option definition for seating system capability

Group 3 and 4 multiple power option PWCs (K0861 – K0864, K0884 – K0886) must have the specified components and meet the following requirements:

- See Multiple Power Options definition for seating system capability
- Accommodates a ventilator

All Group 5 PWCs (K0890, K0891) must have the specified components and meet the following requirements:

- Standard integrated or remote proportional joystick
- Non-expandable controller
- Capable of upgrade to expandable controller
- Capable of upgrade to alternative control devices
- Seat Width: minimum of 5 one-inch options
- Seat Depth: minimum of 3 one-inch options
- Seat Height: adjustment requirements-≥ 3 inches
- Back Height: adjustment requirements minimum of 3 options
- Seat to Back Angle: range of adjustment-minimum of 12 degrees
- Accommodates non-powered options and seating systems
- Accommodates seating and positioning items (e.g., seat and back cushions, headrests, lateral trunk supports, lateral hip supports, medial thigh supports)
- Adjustability for growth (minimum of 3 inches for width, depth and back height adjustment)
- Special developmental capability (i.e., seat to floor, standing, etc.)
- Drive wheel suspension to reduce vibration
- Length - less than or equal to 48 inches
- Width - less than or equal to 34 inches
- Minimum Top End Speed - 4 MPH
- Minimum Range - 12 miles
- Minimum Obstacle Climb - 60 mm
- Dynamic Stability Incline - 9 degrees
- Crash testing - Passed

Group 5 single power option PWC (K0890) must have the specified components and meet the following requirements:

- See Single Power Option definition for seating system capability

Group 5 multiple power option PWC (K0891) must have the specified components and meet the following requirements:

- See Multiple Power Options definition for seating system capability
- Accommodates a ventilator

MISCELLANEOUS:

The only products that may be billed using codes K0800-K0898 are those products for which a written coding verification determination has been made by the Pricing, Data Analysis and Coding (PDAC) contractor. Information concerning the documentation that must be submitted to the PDAC for a Coding Verification Review can be found on the PDAC web site or by contacting the PDAC. A Product Classification List with devices which have received a coding verification determination can be found on the PDAC web site.

Manufacturers and suppliers should refer to the PDAC web site or contact the PDAC for information concerning testing requirements.

If a power mobility device has not received a written coding verification determination from the PDAC or if the PDAC determines that the product does not meet the requirements of any code, it must be billed with code K0899.

Suppliers should contact the PDAC for guidance on the correct coding of these items.

[Back to Top](#)

Coding Information

No Coding Information has been entered in this section of the article.

[Back to Top](#)

Other Information

Other Comments

3/1/2008- In accordance with Section 911 of the Medicare Modernization Act, this policy was transitioned to DME MAC NHIC (16003) Article A36239 from DME PSC TriCenturion (77011) Article A36239.

Revision History Explanation

Revision Effective Date: 06/01/2011

NONMEDICAL NECESSITY COVERAGE AND PAYMENT RULES:

Added: Benefit category statement

Added: Statutory reference for 7-element order requirements

Removed: Noncoverage statement for Group 2 POVs and Group 4 PWCs.

Revision Effective Date: 02/04/2011

NON-MEDICAL NECESSITY COVERAGE AND PAYMENT RULES:

Added: Preamble language

Added: Noncoverage statement for Group 4 PWCs

Revision Effective Date: 01/01/2009

CODING GUIDELINES:

Changed: References from SADMERC to PDAC.

03/01/2008- In accordance with Section 911 of the Medicare Modernization Act, this policy was transitioned to DME MAC NHIC (16003) Article A36239 from DME PSC TriCenturion (77011) Article A36239.

06/01/2007 - In accordance with Section 911 of the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003, Virginia and West Virginia were transitioned from DME PSC TriCenturion (77011) to DME PSC TrustSolutions (77012).

Revision Effective Date: 01/01/2007

CODING GUIDELINES:

Revised Basic Equipment Package for power wheelchairs.

Clarified definitions of alternative control devices, non-expandable controllers, and expandable controllers.

Revised definition of Group 2-5 Multiple Power Option PWCs and Group 5 Single Power Option PWCs to indicate that a non-expandable controller was standard equipment but could be upgraded to an expandable controller.

Revision Effective Date: 11/15/2006 (November Publication)

CODING GUIDELINES:

Revised definition of no power option, single power option, and multiple power options.

Added definition of actuator.

Revision Effective Date: 11/15/2006 (September publication)
Implementation of the Policy Article has been changed from 10/1/2006.

03/01/2006 - In accordance with Section 911 of the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003, this article was transitioned to DME PSC TriCenturion (77011) from DMERC Tricenturion (77011).

Related Document(s)

LCD(s)

[L21271 - Power Mobility Devices](#)

[Back to Top](#)

All Versions

Updated on 05/06/2011 with effective dates 06/01/2011 - N/A

[Updated on 12/10/2010 with effective dates 02/04/2011 - N/A](#)

[Updated on 11/25/2008 with effective dates 01/01/2009 - N/A](#)

Some older versions have been archived. Please visit [MCD Archive Site](#) to retrieve them.

Read the [Article Disclaimer](#)

[Back to Top](#)