

Title: Seat Elevation Systems as an Accessory to Power Wheelchairs
(CAG-00461N)

Decision: The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has determined that there is sufficient evidence to conclude that power seat elevation equipment on Medicare-covered power wheelchairs (PWCs) falls within the benefit category for durable medical equipment (DME). CMS developed national coverage determination (NCD) 280.16, establishing coverage for power-operated seat elevation equipment for individuals using complex rehabilitative power-driven wheelchairs, when the following criteria are met:

- The individual has undergone a specialty evaluation performed by a licensed/certified medical professional that confirms the individual's ability to safely operate the seat elevation equipment in the home; and
- The individual performs weight bearing transfers to/from the power wheelchair while in the home (with or without caregiver assistance and/or the use of assistive equipment); or
- The individual requires a non-weight bearing transfer (e.g. a dependent transfer) to/from the power wheelchair while in the home; or
- The individual performs reaching from the power wheelchair to complete one or more mobility related activities of daily living (MRADLs) such as toileting, feeding, dressing, grooming and bathing in customary locations within the home (with or without caregiver assistance and/or the use of assistive equipment).

What this means: Members who use a Group 3 power wheelchair, or a Group 2 power wheelchair with power options that can accommodate rehabilitative features (such as tilt in space), may be eligible for coverage of power seat elevating equipment when it is needed to assist with transfers to/from the power wheelchair within the home, or with reaching from the

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wheelchair to perform mobility-related activities of daily living within the home. Please refer to the final decision memo for all coverage criteria.

HealthPartners has the discretion to determine reasonable and necessary coverage of power seat elevation equipment for individuals who use Medicare-covered PWCs other than complex rehabilitative power-driven wheelchairs, subject to any requirements established by the DME Medicare Administrative Contractor.

Effective: May 16, 2023

This announcement can be found at: [Seat Elevation Systems as an Accessory to Power Wheelchairs \(CAG-00461N\)](#)

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