

# Wheelchair Options

Regardless of what wheelchair option you feel best fits your needs and the needs of the user, it is important that the wheelchair has flip back or removable arm rests and/or flip back or removable foot/leg rests. These two features will allow the user to transfer in and out of the chair with greater ease and will allow the chair to be pushed up close to various surfaces.

**Transfer Wheelchair** - this type of wheelchair is typically used to transfer the wheelchair user from one place to another. This type of chair does not have large rear wheels so the user cannot steer or drive the wheelchair independently. This type of chair is not meant for long term, permanent use. This may be a beneficial chair for use during outings in public spaces or in large crowds.

- Medline Lightweight Foldable Transfer Wheelchair - <https://tinyurl.com/yv2mx3yn>



**Traditional Manual Wheelchair** - this type of wheelchair can be used for longer periods of time and allows the user to move around their environment independently due to the large rear wheels. This is a good option for someone who has difficulty walking around but still has good arm strength and endurance.

- Drive Medical BLS18FBD-ELR Blue Streak Lightweight Wheelchair - <https://tinyurl.com/4we82bxp>



## **2 In 1 Walker and Wheelchair -**

this walker and wheelchair combo is a great option for an individual who still has good walking endurance but may be fatigued after a long distance. This walker combo allows the user to walk when they feel comfortable but then can transform into a wheelchair with a simple flip of the backrest for when the user feels they need a rest. The wheelchair portion of this combo device is similar to a transport chair and cannot be maneuvered by the user - it will need to be pushed by another individual.

- 2 in 1 Walkers for Seniors with Seat, VOCIC Transformable Rollator Walker and Transport Chair - <https://tinyurl.com/29u5uzj7>



**Lightweight Power Chair** - this type of wheelchair is similar in build to the transfer chair but it houses a battery and drive system with a joystick that allows the user to drive the chair independently. This is a great option for an individual who is struggling to walk around their environment and has decreased upper body strength. This may also be a great option for someone who is considering a customized power wheelchair as a lower cost, trial option.

- World's Lightest Foldable Electric Wheelchair - <https://tinyurl.com/yc5ht4c9>



**Heavy Duty Customized Power Wheelchair** - this type of wheelchair is fully customizable to the needs of the user, and in turn is also the most expensive. This wheelchair is ideal for someone who is no longer able to navigate their environment by walking, who has decreased upper body strength and endurance, and who has difficulty with maintaining good posture. This type of chair is typically ordered through a power wheelchair company and is covered by Medicare. This wheelchair will be completely customized to the needs of the user. While this is a big decision, this can drastically increase the user's independence in their daily life. Your occupational therapist and/or physical therapist can start and facilitate the process of ordering this type of chair.



### **Paying for the wheelchair:**

- It is important to know that Medicare will only pay for a new wheelchair **every five (5) years**.
- If you believe that a power wheelchair will be something your loved one will need to use in the future, it may be in your best interest to save your Medicare wheelchair benefits and money for that heavy duty customized wheelchair.
- For example: if you use your Medicare dollars for manual chair or for a lightweight power chair now, and then your loved one needs a fully customized power chair in two years, Medicare will not cover that customized wheelchair. While it may be expensive in the short term to pay for a manual or lightweight power wheelchair out of pocket, saving your Medicare dollars for the customized power chair may be in your best interest.