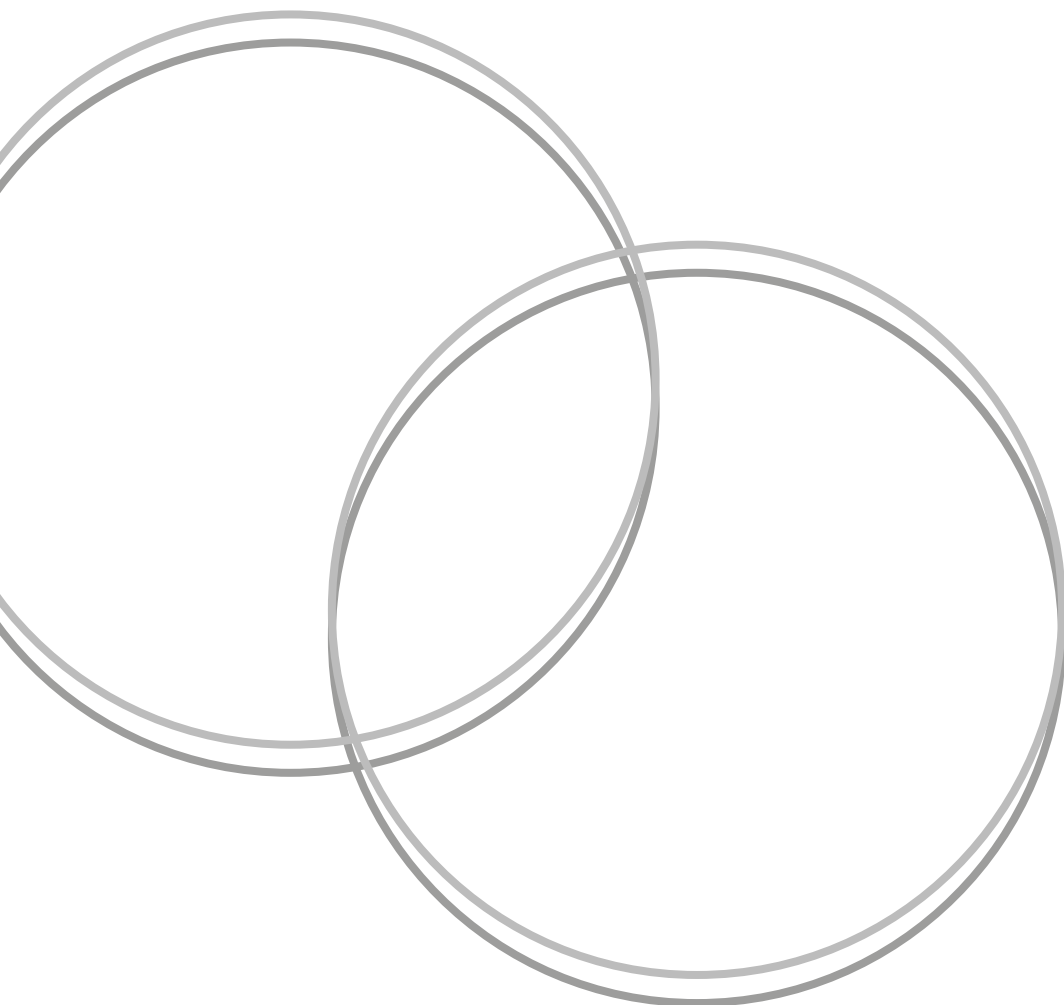




Oxford University Hospitals  
NHS Foundation Trust

# Personal Wheelchair Budgets

Information for patients





## Personal Wheelchair Budget (PWB)

The Personal Wheelchair Budget (PWB) scheme is designed to offer choice for wheelchair users.

During your assessment by Oxfordshire Wheelchair Service, we will identify your wheelchair needs and complete a care and support plan. We will then prescribe you an **NHS wheelchair** – the cost of this is your **PWB**. This means the NHS wheelchair is **free** for you from the NHS.

## Other options

If you wish to **upgrade** your wheelchair, or choose a **different** one, the following three options are available **at a cost to you**.

### Alternative PWB

You may upgrade your wheelchair within the Oxfordshire Wheelchair Service range. In this scheme the NHS will contribute the amount equal to the value of your prescribed wheelchair and send you an invoice for the extra amount you need to pay.

### Top-up PWB

You may add features to the wheelchair prescribed by Oxfordshire Wheelchair Service; if so, we will send you an invoice for the extra amount you need to pay.

In both 'Alternative' and 'Top-up' options, **the NHS still owns the wheelchair and is responsible for repairs and maintenance.**

However, the NHS will not repair or replace any features you have added, such as hub brakes or seat risers.

## **Third Party PWB**

You receive a PWB which is the same value as your prescribed wheelchair, together with a one-off payment to cover repair and maintenance costs. You then contact a supplier who accepts the PWB scheme, and give them your wheelchair specification. The wheelchair you choose must meet your mobility and postural needs, and be in the same category as the chair prescribed for you, e.g. manual, powered indoor, powered indoor/outdoor etc.

### **You must have the quote approved by Oxfordshire Wheelchair Service before you order your chair.**

You **cannot** buy a wheelchair first, and then ask for your PWB.

Following your assessment, and agreement to access your PWB, you have **six months** to use your PWB to obtain your wheelchair.

This wheelchair becomes **your property** and it will be **your responsibility** to organise repairs for it. The NHS will continue to provide your postural seating and/or pressure cushion unless you advise us otherwise at your appointment. Your chosen wheelchair must be compatible with the accessories provided by the NHS.

If your wheelchair **costs less** than your Third Party PWB, ask your supplier to include a repair and maintenance contract as part of their quote.

Your PWB cannot be used to buy second-hand wheelchairs, scooters or trikes.

Any wheelchair you choose must usually be **crash-tested** for use as a seat in a vehicle (exceptions apply in some categories of wheelchairs). We will not approve a non-crash-tested powered wheelchair, even if you do not currently travel in your wheelchair: this is so you can safely travel in your powered wheelchair if your needs change.

## **After you receive your wheelchair**

Equipment is typically provided for a minimum of five years, but under certain circumstances a change to the length may be considered.

If you have chosen the NHS wheelchair, or Alternative or Top-up PWB, you can refer yourself back to Oxfordshire Wheelchair Service at any time for a review of your needs.

If you have chosen a Third Party PWB we cannot review your wheelchair for the duration of the PWB. We can, however, review your cushion or seating. You can refer yourself back to us at any time for this.

**If you are likely to have frequent changes to your wheelchair requirements (e.g. if you are a child, or have a deteriorating condition), the PWB scheme may not be appropriate for you.**

## **Contact us**

### **Oxford Centre for Enablement**

Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre

Windmill Road

Headington

Oxford OX3 7HE

Tel: **01865 227 273**

Email: **[ows.administration@nhs.net](mailto:ows.administration@nhs.net)**

Personal Health Budgets – NHS England:

**[www.england.nhs.uk/personalisedcare/personal-health-budgets/personal-wheelchair-budgets](http://www.england.nhs.uk/personalisedcare/personal-health-budgets/personal-wheelchair-budgets)**



## Further information

If you would like an interpreter, please speak to the department where you are being seen.

Please also tell them if you would like this information in another format, such as:

- Easy Read
- large print
- braille
- audio
- electronic
- another language.

We have tried to make the information in this leaflet meet your needs. If it does not meet your individual needs or situation, please speak to your healthcare team. They are happy to help.

Author: The Oxford Wheelchair service  
November 2023  
Review: November 2026  
Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust  
[www.ouh.nhs.uk/information](http://www.ouh.nhs.uk/information)



*Making a difference across our hospitals*

[charity@ouh.nhs.uk](mailto:charity@ouh.nhs.uk) | 01865 743 444 | [hospitalcharity.co.uk](http://hospitalcharity.co.uk)

OXFORD HOSPITALS CHARITY (REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1175809)

