

Specialist Disability Service

# Appointments for Mobile Arm Support (MAS) and Wheelchair Control

Information for patients and carers



You have been referred to the Specialist Disability Service. This information leaflet tells you what you can expect to happen at your appointment and afterwards. We will explain in more detail what will happen when we meet you and you will be able to ask questions at any time.

The additional information sheet (enclosed) gives the reason for your visit. Your appointment letter will tell you whether we need you to come to the Oxford Centre for Enablement or if the team will be coming to you.

Please note that whilst we offer a range of services, your appointment will only be related to the specific service for which you have been referred.

## Mobile arm supports

A mobile arm support (MAS) is a piece of equipment that supports the forearm, making it easier to move with less effort. A MAS can be used to help with activities such as eating, turning pages, using a computer, tablet or communication aid, and pressing buttons on a telephone or remote control.



### **Where will the appointment take place?**

Most assessment appointments take place in your home. This helps the clinician assess the best way to set up the equipment, so that it works within your home environment.

If you are a full time wheelchair user and you eat, access your computer or read from your chair, then an outpatient appointment may be suitable. You will need to be sat in your main wheelchair for the assessment.

### **What will happen during the appointment?**

The assessment starts with a conversation covering subjects such as your daily routine, your home environment and care provision. We will check the pain free range of movement in your arms and shoulders. You do not need a lot of strength to use a MAS, as it is more about control.

If we then feel you would be suitable to try a MAS, an assessment kit will be set up for you.

### **What happens after the initial assessment?**

Not everyone likes or can easily use a MAS. Even if it works well, we will check that you would like us to go ahead before we make up a kit, as custom parts are often required. We will make a follow-up appointment for you when the MAS is ready to be issued to you.

If your circumstances change within a year from receiving your MAS, you can contact us for a review. The equipment costs are still covered by the initial funding during this time and parts can be exchanged to adapt your MAS.

## Wheelchair controls

The wheelchair controls service can help find alternative drive methods for you to manoeuvre your electric wheelchair, if you are finding it difficult to use a standard joystick. This could be due to reduced dexterity, strength or range of movement. Alternative drive mechanisms include head switches, chin control and minimal force ('mini') joysticks.

### **What will happen during the appointment?**

During the assessment we will discuss the relevant background information, such as what methods you have used in the past to manoeuvre your chair. We'll also discuss the environments where you most often use your chair. We will then set up alternative drive mechanisms for you to trial, either during the initial appointment or at a later date.

### **What happens after the initial assessment?**

A report will be written to summarise the assessment for your records. This will be sent to you and the person who referred you to our service.

If we think that an alternative drive method would help, we will request funding for this from the referrer (usually your local wheelchair service).

Once funding is agreed we will arrange a follow-up appointment with you, to set up your chair with the equipment.

# How to contact us

## Specialist Disability Service

**Tel:** 01865 227 447

(8.00am to 4.00pm, Monday to Friday)

**Email:** [specialist.disabilityservice@nhs.net](mailto:specialist.disabilityservice@nhs.net)

**Website:**

[www.ouh.nhs.uk/oce/services/specialist-disability-service.aspx](http://www.ouh.nhs.uk/oce/services/specialist-disability-service.aspx)

**Address:**

Specialist Disability Service (SDS)

Oxford Centre for Enablement

Windmill Road

Oxford

Oxfordshire

OX3 7HE

If you have a specific requirement, need an interpreter, a document in Easy Read, another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call **01865 221 473** or email **[PALS@ouh.nhs.uk](mailto:PALS@ouh.nhs.uk)**

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