

Definitions

(From Medicare DME MAC LCD Policy Article regarding Power Mobility Devices)

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.

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.

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.

Crash Testing - Successful completion of WC-19 testing.

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.

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.

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.)
- d. An expandable controller may also be able to operate one or more of the following:
- e. A separate display (i.e., for alternate control devices)
- f. Other electronic devices (e.g., control of an augmentative speech device or computer through the chair's drive control)
- g. An attendant control

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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

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.

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.

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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".)

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.

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, swing away, 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, swing away, 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., non-proportional or mini, compact or short throw proportional), or other alternative control device may be billed separately.

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. 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.