Power Mobility Considerations

Which mobility assistive equipment allows
The individual to go from point A to point B
in an: *independent, safe, and timely manner*
To accomplish mobility related activities of
daily living?

Power Operated Vehicle (POV)/Scooter

A POV is a 3- or 4-wheeled device with tiller steering, limited adjustability and seat modification capabilities. The beneficiary should have sufficient strength, range of motion, motor control, dexterity, balance and postural stability to operate a POV/scooter. Consider the following questions:

- Can the beneficiary transfer to/from the scooter consistently within and between days?
- Does the beneficiary have adequate use of both upper extremities to operate the tiller drive control and maneuver the scooter/POV in all environments of use?
- Can the beneficiary maintain postural stability and control for adequate operation consistently?
- Is there any need (or future projected need) for seating & positioning components or a programmable drive control device?
- Does the beneficiary's home provide adequate access, maneuvering space and surfaces conducive for the safe operation of a POV?

Work well for clients who:

- Have good head/trunk control and can use their upper extremities to control the tiller
- Can get in and out of the seat safely
- Travel longer distances for endurance on flat surfaces
- May walk short distances

Not recommend if:

- Seating and/or positioning components are necessary or there is a projected future need
- Power seating functions are needed or may be required in the future
- A programmable or alternative drive method is required or may be necessary in the future
- The turning radius limits mobility or independence

POV/Scooter Classifications

*minimum performance requirements listed

Group 1 POV (K0800 – K0802):

- 5 mile range
- 20 mm (3/4 in.) obstacle climb
- 3 mph speed
- Weight capacity:
  - ≤ 300 lbs.
  - 301 lbs. - 450 lbs.
  - 451 lbs. - 600 lbs.
- Intent for use on flat hard surfaces
- Intent for use is < 2 hours a day
  - Primarily for endurance management

Three-Wheeled Scooter:

- Tighter turning radius
- Larger foot space

Group 2 POV (K0806 – K0808):

- 10 mile range
- 50 mm (1.968 in.) obstacle climb
- 4 mph speed
- Weight capacity:
  - ≤ 300 lbs.
  - 301 lbs. - 450 lbs.
  - 451 lbs. - 600 lbs.
- Deemed to have "added capabilities that are not needed for use in the home" by some payers (Medicare)

Four-Wheeled Scooter:

- Increased stability with extra wheel
- Increased stability on inclines

To determine turning capabilities within the home:

- Length and width of floor space should be at least two times as wide as the turning radius of the POV's specifications

Client Centered Considerations: Power Mobility

Technical Expert Panel (TEP) Intent for Use:

1. **Standard Use (Group 1)** – A category of chairs designed primarily for intermittent use on flat, hard surfaces with minimal surface irregularity.
    - NO power seating/positioning options

2. Standard Plus Use (Group 2) – A category of chairs designed primarily for regular use on flat hard surfaces with minimal to moderate surface irregularity.
    - Power Tilt and Foot Platform possible

3. General Use (Group 3) – A category of chairs designed for a mixture of continuous use on flat to rolling terrain, and hard surfaces with moderate surface irregularity.
    - All available power seating functions

4. High Activity Use (Group 4) – A category of chairs designed for frequent use on uneven terrain, hard and soft surfaces with moderate to extreme surface irregularity, or for speeds and ranges that exceed those of chairs designed for standard or general use.

Questions to consider:

- Does your client utilize their power wheelchair 12-18 hours a day? Will their chair have enough range to accommodate their distance traveled and hours of use?
    - This is continuous use = consider Group 3
- Can the individual transfer to and from the PWC independently and change either position on their own volition?
    - Consideration of power seat elevation (requires Group 3)
    - Consideration of powered tilt, recline, articulating foot platform for repositioning
- Does your client have a history of or current pressure injury or lacks sensation?
    - **Tilt and recline** provides the most pressure relief when used in combination
        - Either 35° of tilt with 100° recline OR 15-25° tilt with 120° recline
        - 45˚ of tilt with 120˚ of recline provides a 40% load reduction
- Will your client encounter obstacles > 1.5” or uneven terrain, grass, gravel? –consider Group 3 base
- Would constant vibration and jarring forces from various terrain/thresholds impact your clients: balance, access to drive control, comfort, position?
    - Consider Group 3 with requirement of base suspension

Qualifications for Power Mobility

- Client does not have sufficient upper extremity function to propel a manual wheelchair in the home to participate in mobility related activities of daily living (MRADLs) even if optimally configured.
- A manual wheelchair or scooter cannot provide safe, timely, independent mobility and why.
- They require the use of a joystick or alternative input device and/or seating/positioning needs that can not be met by a MWC or scooter.
- A clients home has adequate access for maneuvering, and they can safely
- use the power wheelchair.

Group 2

- Created for those using >2 hours a day
- No added suspension
  - Made for use on flat/hard surfaces
- Single power or multipower
  - Multipower typically being limited to 2 power seating features
  - Limited options
- Minimum requirements:
  - 7 mile range
  - 3 mph top speed
  - 1.57” obstacle climb
  - 6 degree incline
- Basic/minimal programming
  - Cannot use alternative drive controls (ex: head array)
- Diagnosis to consider: COPD, CHF, arthritis, peripheral neuropathy

Group 3

- Created for more active, continuous users
  - Those with neurological, myopathy, or congenital skeletal deformities
- HAS suspension
  - Maintains positioning in chair
  - Limits pain/discomfort
  - Helps with stability and longevity of the base
- Minimum requirements:
  - 12 miles range
  - 4.5 mph top speed
  - 2.362” obstacle climb
  - 7.5 degree incline
- Single and Multipower options:
  - Tilt
  - Recline
  - Elevating/articulating foot rest
  - Seat elevation
  - Anterior tilt
- Custom programming capabilities and use of alternative drive controls

Jazzy EVO 613

J4

Stretto

Edge 3

Resources

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