

THINGS TO REMEMBER FOR A POWER WHEELCHAIR PURCHASE

There are several things that are important to remember as you are considering purchase of a power wheelchair. A power chair can be an excellent choice for you to maintain your mobility, independence and comfort. It can be adapted to accommodate the changing physical needs associated with ALS. Keep these points in mind while you consider your options or while waiting for your chair to arrive:

- Insurers generally will only cover the purchase of one wheelchair. If you use your insurance benefit for a manual wheelchair, scooter or electric wheelchair there will not be coverage for a power wheelchair later. You might want to borrow or self-pay for one of the above items to use for short periods of time. The ALS Association sometimes has them available in the loan closet.
- Hospice will not pay for a power wheelchair, so you must have your power wheelchair prior to going into hospice.
- There are many types of power wheelchairs with many different options. Be sure to have a thorough evaluation so your individual needs are met.
- Consider your future needs when ordering the power chair. Make sure the equipment you will need later is included or that the chair can be easily modified to meet your changing needs.
- If you will be using the power wheelchair someplace in addition to your home, you will need to have access to a wheelchair accessible van with a lift or ramp and tie-downs.
- A power wheelchair is a sophisticated device that is made specifically for you for maximum comfort and to fit your individual needs and lifestyle. Because of this, it often takes a minimum of three months for it to arrive after it has been ordered. Plan ahead.
- The ALS Association may have a power wheelchair available in the loan closet for you to use while you are waiting for your chair to arrive.
- If your home is outside of the service area of the vendor from which you purchased the power chair you will probably have to arrange to transport the chair to the vendor's facility for service or maintenance.



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