



Sussex Community
NHS Foundation Trust

Wheelchairs we offer to young people

Brighton & Hove and West Sussex
Wheelchair and Specialist Seating Service



Welcome

This booklet gives you information about the wheelchair service and the common types of wheelchair we offer to young people.

We know young people can feel anxious before they receive a chair, especially for the first time. This booklet aims to help you understand what experience you can expect from the service and how we help you achieve as much independence as possible.

The staff in the wheelchair service are here to help you, so if there is anything in this booklet you do not understand or would like more information about, please do not hesitate to talk to us.

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The wheelchair service

Where is the service

The wheelchair and specialist seating service covers Brighton & Hove and West Sussex. You will normally receive care from your nearest team. Below are the contact details of our teams:

Brighton and Worthing teams:

Sussex Rehabilitation Centre
Brighton General Hospital
Elm Grove
Brighton
BN2 3EW

☎ Brighton team: **01273 242156/7**

@ **sc-tr.wheelchairadmin@nhs.net**

☎ Worthing team: **01273 265850**

@ **sc-tr.wheelchairservice
worthing@nhs.net**

Bognor Regis team:

Bognor Regis Wheelchair Service
Richard Hotham Unit
Bognor War Memorial Hospital
Shripney Road
Bognor Regis
PO22 9PP

☎ **01243 623650**

@ **sc-tr.wheelchairservicebognor
@nhs.net**

Horsham team:

Horsham Wheelchair Service
Horsham Hospital
Hurst Road
Horsham
West Sussex
RH12 2DR

☎ **01403 227000 ext. 7160**

@ **sc-tr.wheelchairservice
horsham@nhs.net**

Telephone hours are 8:30am to 4:30pm weekdays and until 4pm on Fridays in Brighton (excluding bank holidays).

Please note parking charges may apply when attending a clinic.

Visiting the service and visiting you

You will usually be referred to the team nearest to the area where you live in. Occasionally you may have appointments at wheelchair clinics with an occupational therapist to discuss your needs and requirements. They will show you the most suitable wheelchairs and advise you about accessories and modifications.

We may wish to visit you at home. This is usually to look at access and space to manoeuvre your wheelchair indoors.

A home visit can also be arranged if you are unable to travel to a clinic.

Who can use the wheelchair service?

Anyone living in Brighton & Hove or West Sussex area who has a permanent need for a wheelchair, whether for everyday or occasional use. A registration with a GP in the area is required and your GP will normally refer you to the service. Occasionally other therapists or other healthcare professionals may refer you instead.



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The team

Who are the team?



The team is a mixture of people with different roles. Some of the people you might encounter include:

Occupational therapists who support people whose health prevents them from doing the activities that matter to them. Occupational therapists review your referral and select appropriate wheelchair and seating for you. They may look more closely at your posture or other aspects of care and will invite you to a clinic to discuss your needs in more detail. They may also visit you at home to check for available access and space.

Rehabilitation engineers who help occupational therapists select the wheelchair and seating that will achieve the best mobility, support and comfort for you. They may design, manufacture, assemble or adjust the seating and wheelchair to meet your individual needs.

Consultants who are a type of doctor that specialise in rehabilitation medicine. You will not normally need to see a doctor but they can be consulted by your occupational therapist if necessary.

Support staff who are a mixture of receptionists, administrators and managers. They may greet you when you arrive at clinics and make sure you know where to go and who you will be seeing. They will arrange your appointments with you and assist with transport queries.

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Deliveries

Once your wheelchair has been prescribed we will order it from the supplier, and you will receive information telling you which items will be delivered to you at home. A handbook on using the wheelchair and information about maintaining and caring for it will be delivered to you with the wheelchair.

Please note: All wheelchairs supplied by the Wheelchair Service are on loan to you, and you will be asked to sign a 'loan conditions' document which outlines your responsibilities when you take delivery of your chair.

Repairs

If your wheelchair has a mechanical problem please contact our wheelchair repair contractor:

AJM Healthcare

Unit 17 North Crescent, Diplocks Way, Hailsham, East Sussex BN27 3JF

 **01323 847250**

 **service@ajmhealthcare.org**

If you go on holiday in England and your wheelchair breaks down, you can contact the wheelchair service in that area for assistance. We can help with contact numbers if necessary.

Please do not attempt to undertake repairs yourself.

Voucher scheme

If you need a self-propelling wheelchair, you will be lent one that meets your needs, free of charge, from the NHS. If you would like a more expensive model which the NHS cannot provide, you may have a voucher towards its cost instead.

Before a voucher can be issued the wheelchair service must ensure that the wheelchair you want is both safe and suitable for you. Please ask a member of staff to explain the scheme to you in more detail.

Enquiries

Our administrative staff can help you with information on delivery times, repairs and return of wheelchairs. If you have any problems or need advice about your wheelchair - for example, if you need a new cushion for your chair, or your weight changes considerably and your wheelchair is no longer comfortable - please call the administrative staff in the first instance. They will pass on your query to the occupational therapists who will decide if you need further assessment.

- If you live in Brighton & Hove please call **01273 242156** or **242157** from 8:30am to 4:30pm Monday to Thursday and 8:30am to 4:00pm on Fridays.
- If you live in the Worthing area please call **01273 265850**.
- If you live in the Bognor area please call **01243 623650**.
- If you live in the Horsham area please call **01403 227000** ext. **7160**.

Types of wheelchair

One of our occupational therapists will assess your needs to identify a suitable wheelchair for you. The service has a list of preferred models it uses that meet the needs of the majority of people. Each wheelchair is provided based on your clinical needs however some of the models typically offered by the service are detailed below:

Manual self-propelling wheelchairs

Invacare – Action 3 Junior

- Lightweight (12.3kg to 15kg).
- Suitable for people weighing less than 80kg.
- Foldable for easy transportation and storage – folding backrest, quick release wheels, detachable arm and leg rests.



Invacare – Ben NG

- Medium weight (19.3kg to 22kg).
- Suitable for people weighing less than 127kg.
- Foldable for easy transportation and storage.



Sunrise Medical – Argon²

- Lightweight (8kg+).
- Suitable for people weighing less than 125kg.
- For people who can self-propel outdoors.
- Some forks are made of extremely strong carbon fibre material from the aeronautic industry.



Otto Bock Ventus

- Lightweight (11kg).
- Suitable for people weighing less than 100 kg.
- For people who can self-propel outdoors.
- Frame, footrests and side panels are made of light metal.

Electric wheelchairs

Invacare Spectra Blitz

- Weighs 79.5kg (including batteries).
- Suitable for people weighing less than 75kg.
- Top speed 6km per hour.
- Twin 180 watt motors.
- Two 40 amp batteries.
- 21 kilometre range.



Otto Bock Ventus - B400

- Weighs 95kg (including batteries).
- Suitable for people weighing less than 140 kg.
- For active users.
- Frame, footrests and side panels are made of light metal.

Contact us

We welcome your comments and complaints because they help us to make improvements. We also like to know if you have received particularly good service.

Please speak to any member of staff or write to:

The Service Manager, Sussex Rehabilitation Centre
Brighton General Hospital, Elm Grove, Brighton BN2 3EX

Get the best from your NHS

Our patient advice and liaison service (PALS) can help patients, families and carers with questions, comments or concerns about NHS services. If you need advice about our services, facilities or staff, or would like to make a comment, please contact PALS at:



PALS, Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust, B Block,
Brighton General Hospital, Elm Grove, Brighton BN2 3EW



01273 242292



www.sussexcommunity.nhs.uk/pals



sc-tr.serviceexperience@nhs.net

Please ask any member of the team caring for you if you need this information in large print, Braille, easy read, audio tape, email. Or if you need help with understanding this information or require this in a language that is not English.



*Excellent care at the
heart of the community*

