

Assistive Technology Loans Scheme Trial Guidelines

In partnership with the Australian
Government Department of Health and
Aged Care

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www.enable.health.nsw.gov.au/at-loans-scheme-trial



Assistive Technology Loans Scheme Trial guidelines for clinicians

NSW Health is partnering with the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care (DoHAC) to trial the delivery of an Assistive Technology (AT) Loans Scheme. For the trial period, only clients residing in South West Sydney and Riverina/Murray aged care planning regions are eligible. See www.enable.health.nsw.gov.au/at-loans-scheme-trial for full eligibility details.

Assistive Technology prescription

- **Eligible prescribers:** it is the responsibility of the prescriber to ensure they have:
 - assessed the person,
 - are appropriately qualified,
 - have adequate experience, and
 - are prescribing products within their scope of practice.

Prescribers may be contacted by EnableNSW if additional clinical information is needed. If follow up is to be completed by another prescriber, include their details with the application. A care, fit and safety review must be completed to ensure the correct item has been delivered, appropriately set up and is suitable for the client's needs.

- **Before applying,** ensure
 - you have assessed the person and have chosen products based on their specific clinical needs,
 - the products are appropriate for the person's assessed level of function and long-term requirements (only one item per AT product type will be provided),
 - the products are the most cost-effective solution to improve independence and safety at home and,
 - you have referred to the [online catalogue](#) for details of products available.

Assistive Technology categories

- Readily available products **must** be considered in the first instance - these products do not require a trial prior to applying. Items can be swapped by the prescriber upon review to another readily available item in the same category if not suitable or if needs change.
- Purchased on request products should be trialled before submitting an application - consider products available on the NSW Health contracts in the first instance.
- Pre-approval required products must be trialled - contact a clinical advisor for pre-approval prior to trialling options.
- If a product is not available in the catalogue, call and speak to an EnableNSW clinical advisor to discuss the specific clinical scenario.

Assistive Technology not provided

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ceiling hoists • Companion beds • Compression garments • Continence products • Home enteral nutrition products • Footwear/orthotics • Home modifications • Household items | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal alarms/emergency response systems • Recreation and rehabilitation AT • Small aids, e.g. modified cutlery, universal cuffs, reaching aids • Vehicle modifications |
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READILY AVAILABLE		
These below products will not be provided on their own and can be requested when packaged with other items		
Item	Eligible prescribers	Additional Comments
2 wheeled walker - SKUID: 554453	Occupational Therapists (OT) Physiotherapists (PT) Registered Nurses (RN)	
Bath board - SKUID: 554439		
Bed cradle - SKUID: 554480		
Kitchen perching stool - SKUID: 554474		
Kitchen trolley - SKUID: 554436		
Over toilet aid - SKUID: 554459		
Raised toilet seats - SKUID: 554441, 554442		
Shower chair - SKUID: 554475		
Shower stool - SKUID: 554476		
Toilet surround frame - SKUID: 554445		
Other readily available products		
Item	Eligible prescribers	Additional Comments
4 wheeled walking frames	OT, PT, RN	
Bedside commodes		
Footstools/leg rests for height adjustable chairs		
Forearm support frames		
Height adjustable chairs – low back and high back		
Manual wheelchairs – self-propelling		<ul style="list-style-type: none">If a non-standard size or additional accessories are required, discuss with a clinical advisor before applying
Manual wheelchairs – tilt in space		
Manual wheelchairs – transit		
Mobile hoists and slings		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Yoke and pivot attachmentsGeneral purpose and Care slings are availableAn additional ‘readily available’ sling can be provided if the person is incontinent, or it is unsafe to remove the sling for bathing and toileting

Mobile shower commodes – self-propelling		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a non-standard size or additional accessories are required, discuss with a clinical advisor before applying Ensure item is compatible with person's home environment and existing equipment
Mobile shower commodes – tilt in space		
Mobile shower commodes – transit		
Over bed tables		
Over toilet aids		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single items may be requested, unless listed above Includes a height and width adjustable over toilet aid
Powered adjustable beds		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided to assist with transfers and/or positioning King Single beds can be requested if Single beds are not clinically suitable Companion beds are not provided An environmental review for additional delivery considerations must have been completed. If applicable, prescribers must confirm that one-piece beds can be delivered to the home Floor-line beds require pre-approval
Powered adjustable beds - accessories		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The accessories must not impact the person's safety or restrict their independence or voluntary movement
Power wheelchairs (PWC) – off the shelf Note: Prescriber must be present on delivery to conduct assessment of safety, suitability and correct set up		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Off the shelf PWCs have integrated backrests and some adjustability – options are: Q400M (SKUID: 554319 [18 inches seat width]) and Merits Vector (SKUID: 553775 [20 inches seat width]). For clients with bariatric needs, the Pride Quantum Q1450 Bariatric PWC (front-wheel drive) is available in x2 sizes (SKUID: 554342 [28 inches seat width] and SKUID: 554361 [32 inches seat width]) A readily available pressure care cushion should be chosen For community access only, off the shelf PWCs will be provided For full-time wheelchair users – a customised PWC with tilt and seating may be considered – see pre-approval guidelines <p>Note: Portable (pull apart or automatic folding/collapsible) travel electric scooters and wheelchairs are excluded</p>
Pressure care cushions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a non-standard size or configuration is required, discuss with a clinical advisor before applying
Pressure care mattresses		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A validated pressure care assessment is recommended to guide selection Mattress replacement systems will only be provided for powered adjustable beds Additional clinical justification may be required for high-cost products Products can be swapped to other readily available options as a person's needs change
Shower chairs and shower stools		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single items may be requested, unless listed above Includes height and width adjustable options
Slide boards		
Swivel bathers		

Toilet thrones		
Transfer aids		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes sit-to-stand transfer aids and standing hoists
Transfer benches		

PURCHASED ON REQUEST		
These products will be purchased from the NSW Health contract or purchased from a quote. Products should be trialled before submitting a request		
Item	Eligible Prescribers	Additional Comments
Low vision/reading aids	Low vision clinic Orthoptist Optometrist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audio labellers Audio monitor (blood pressure, blood sugar levels) DAISY players Low vision computer software Screen reading software
Falls alarms/sensor mats	OT, PT, RN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Options include – bed, chair and floor mats
Manual wheelchairs – foot propelled	OT, PT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider environments of use Ensure item meets the person's long-term needs
Manual wheelchairs – one arm drive		
Padding/pressure care for toilet seats	OT, PT, RN	
Wheelchair specialised arm supports	OT, PT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check accessory compatibility with readily available manual wheelchairs Obtain quote from NSW Health contracted supplier and submit with application
Wheelchair head and neck supports		
Wheelchair lap trays		
Wheelchair lights and signaling devices		

PRE-APPROVAL REQUIRED

1. Complete review of older person's AT needs as per your usual processes.
2. Confirm that 'Readily available' and 'Purchased on request' products do not meet clinical need.
3. Contact a clinical advisor to request pre-approval via phone or using [the preapproval enquiry link](#).
4. If pre-approved, a confirmation email with the pre-approval number will be sent. The clinical advisor will provide contract options or products from the EnableNSW Equipment Centre to consider in the first instance. These must be trialled.
5. Submit application and provide a quote if applicable.

Item	Eligible Prescribers	Additional Comments
Care chairs	OT, PT, RN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided as a primary positioning device • Other mobility / positioning equipment (e.g. tilt in space wheelchair) is not in place for daytime use or community access
Customised manual wheelchairs (MWC)	OT, PT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person must be a full-time wheelchair user • Ensure off the shelf options have been considered and are not clinically suitable • Contract options must be considered in the first instance • Prescriber must be suitably experienced and able to complete follow up assessments as required • For PWCs, the base must be approved and processed before completing a seating trial with an approved supplier • Additional power features (such as seat elevation) will not be funded in lieu of task adaptations or environmental modifications • Prescribers must be present for the delivery of PWCs
Customised power wheelchairs (PWC)	OT, PT	
Customised wheelchair accessories, including alternative switches and controls	OT, PT	
Floor-line beds	OT, PT, RN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person has a documented history of, or is at significant risk of falls from bed • Low cost solutions have been trialled and ruled out • Standard powered adjustable beds do not meet clinical need • An environmental review for additional delivery considerations must have been completed. Prescriber must confirm the floor-line bed can be delivered into the home
Harnesses, seat belts and restraints for wheelchairs	OT, PT, RN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional risk assessments must be conducted to ensure the products do not impact the person's safety and will not restrict their independence or voluntary movement
Low vision/reading aids	Low vision clinic Orthoptist Optometrist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Braille device • Desktop magnifier • Desktop magnifier with OCR (text to speech) • OrCam MyEye glasses • Portable electronic magnifier
Portable ramps	OT, PT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited sizes available • Must comply with recognised safety guidelines
Positioning systems, including sleep positioning aids/bed positioning supports	OT, PT, RN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided for one bed only • Recommended as part of a management plan to address the assessed clinical need

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trial demonstrates improved sleep and reduced need for repositioning overnight
Power assist devices for manual wheelchairs (independent user)	OT, PT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person must be a full-time, independent wheelchair user • Use of a power wheelchair has been considered and is not the most practical or cost-effective solution • Includes joystick or hand-rim operated options • The power conversion kit is unable to travel at speeds greater than 10km/hr or is speed limited to a maximum of 10km/hr and cannot be reprogrammed or changed by the person • Must be trialled in the environment of use
Power lift chairs	OT, PT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided as a transfer aid or as a person's primary daytime positioning device • Person must be ambulant • Person can use the device safely and independently • Lower cost solutions for transfers (such as height adjustable chairs or furniture raisers) have been considered and deemed not clinically suitable • Other transfer equipment (such as a standing hoist) or other positioning devices (such as a Care chair) have not been provided
Power packs for manual wheelchairs (carer assisted)	OT, PT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the person/carers can attach, dismantle and stow the device as required
Scooters	OT, PT Prescriber must conduct assessment of person's safety and suitability to use the scooter upon delivery with the supplier present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scooters are provided for an older person to complete essential tasks of daily living • The scooter <u>medical questionnaire</u> must be completed by the person's doctor and attached to the application • Person must be ambulant • The need for a specific cognitive screen should be considered by the prescriber • Scooters are not provided to travel distances expected of a vehicle or other forms of transport due to safety, repairs and maintenance concerns • If the person is unsafe using the scooter during the assessment with the supplier and prescriber present, the scooter must not be left onsite and should be returned to EnableNSW • It is the responsibility of the prescriber to provide ongoing training and regular reassessments as clinically indicated
Customised seating systems	OT, PT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seat and back support surfaces - can be off the shelf, customised or custom made
Speech software	Speech Pathologist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For clients with complex communication needs • Person can use the device independently, or is working towards independence
Voice amplifiers/assistive communication devices		