

CATEGORY "D" WHEELCHAIRS

The category "D" chair refers to very lightweight wheelchairs (generally made of titanium), which are available through AADL wheelchair vendors. Historically, these chairs have not been listed on the AADL Approved Products List, and have not been purchased by AADL. Individual clients and/or their insurers have been purchasing these privately owned wheelchairs in the past.

Effective July 1, 2005, AADL will begin making a grant available to those who are eligible for an AADL "C" category wheelchair and want to "upgrade" to one of these "D" category wheelchairs. The grant will be paid directly to the vendor once the purchase has been approved by AADL, and the chair has been ordered and supplied to the client (service date). The individual will own the chair. It will be recorded in the AADL client consumption as an "upgrade" chair, regardless of the full cost of the chair. AADL will not pay for repairs or maintenance of these chairs. A quantity/frequency limit of one "D" chair grant per six years will be strictly enforced. The 2005-06 grant amount is \$3,600.00.

Eligibility Criteria:

The client must meet the AADL eligibility criteria for a "C" category wheelchair:

The client is a full time, active and independent user who frequently propels into the community alone,

AND has upper extremity weakness, as documented by a standard muscle test, which substantiates the weakness relative to the medical condition,

OR describes a lifestyle with a permanent, non-progressive illness/injury with a need to prevent upper limb overuse injury, e.g. paraplegia.

Process:

This process involves the Client, an Authorizer, an AADL Wheelchair Vendor and the AADL office:

Authorizer Responsibility:

1. AADL Authorizer determines that the client meets the "C" category eligibility. The Authorizer completes a standard muscle test to confirm the upper limb weakness, and/or clinically identifies the shoulder injury/injury risk.
2. The AADL Authorizer completes and signs an AADL 1251 authorization form, indicating Catalogue #W998 for a "D" category wheelchair, and marking the "yes" check box to confirm the client's wish to "upgrade" to a "D" category wheelchair. In the 1251 Section 6 "Additional Information", the Authorizer should also write, "This is a request for category D funding". A preferred vendor must be indicated on the 1251.

3. The Authorizer and client do **not** complete the "Client Declaration Form" on the back of the 1251. A similar declaration will be signed at the vendor location once the wheelchair specification sheets have been completed.
4. The Authorizer forwards the yellow 1251 copy (and the muscle test when applicable, and/or any other clinical information regarding the shoulders) to AADL for prior approval. The vendor copy is sent to the preferred vendor. A copy is given to the client.
5. The Authorizer has no further responsibility regarding the specs. or chair choice.

AADL Responsibility:

1. AADL will review the 1251, muscle test and/or supporting clinical data, and will prior approve the client for a "D" category chair. AADL will notify the preferred vendor of the prior approval.

Client Responsibility:

1. The client must be well informed about wheelchairs.
2. The client must be well informed about the AADL Program, cost sharing, his/her cost share status, "C" category wheelchairs, and "D" category wheelchair choices.
3. The client must be well informed about his/her specific wheelchair need.
4. The client, in collaboration with an AADL wheelchair vendor, determines what "D" chair will meet his/her needs.
5. The client in collaboration with the AADL vendor will complete measurements and spec. sheets for the order.
6. The client will arrange funding for the chair to include all costs exceeding the AADL contribution, and when applicable, the cost-share portion.
7. The client signs the "Category D Wheelchair Client Declaration Form" which is available at the Vendor's business. The original declaration form and a copy of the specs are forwarded to the AADL Program and will be placed on the client file along with a copy of the 1251.

Vendor Responsibility:

1. The wheelchair manufacturer/distributor has designated the Vendor as an approved outlet for sales and service. The vendor determines that the chair/chair line has been RESNA certified
2. The Vendor works with the client to determine the correct chair, correct chair fitting, and chair specifications and correct order form.
3. Vendor has received notification of prior approval from AADL.
4. The Vendor completes the specification sheets and order form.
5. The Vendor provides and has the client sign the Category "D" Wheelchair Client Declaration form, and forwards the signed form and a copy of the specs. to AADL.
6. When the vendor is assured that the client's funding is in place, the vendor orders the chair and dispenses the wheelchair once it is available.
7. The vendor invoices AADL for the grant payment, recognizing the client's cost-share status on the service date. The vendor invoices the client for the cost share when applicable, and the balance owing.