

## **Manual and Power Mobility Options - ALS Clinic**

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This handout is meant to act as an outline of different options for mobility devices, to guide your expectations and to help you identify when you may require a re-assessment for new equipment.

**All wheelchairs must be recommended by an occupational therapist (OT) or physiotherapist (PT) to ensure they are properly sized and meet your mobility needs.**

### **Transport Wheelchair**

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- Available through ALS Canada's Loan Cupboard
- Good for occasional use when fatigued
- Lightweight and foldable; fits in most cars
- Small wheels work best indoors - may be "bumpy" outside
- Uncomfortable for long periods of time
- Cannot be independently propelled by user
- No customization possible

### **Manual Wheelchair**

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- Available through ALS Canada's Loan Cupboard
- Good for indoor or outdoor use for multiple hours at a time
- Improved comfort for long distances and over uneven ground
- Foldable option requires some disassembly
- May not fit in smaller cars
- OT can request specialized cushion and back support for improved comfort and pressure relief
- Can be independently propelled by a user's hands or feet

### **Manual Tilt Wheelchair**

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- Available through ALS Canada's Loan Cupboard
- Best option for all-day indoor or outdoor use
- Tilts back in space for pressure relief and positioning
- OT can request specialized cushion and back support for improved comfort and pressure relief
- Especially helpful with neck or core weakness
- Cannot fold; requires an accessible vehicle for community mobility
- Difficult for user to propel independently

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If you have questions or need to be assessed for a mobility device, please contact your Occupational Therapist

### Power Scooter (Outdoor)

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- Available through ALS Canada's Loan Cupboard
- Excellent for use outdoors or on somewhat uneven terrain
- Comfortable for several hours of consecutive use
- Allows independent mobility over long distances
- Requires strength in core and both arms/hands to use safely
- Cannot fold; requires an accessible vehicle for transportation

### Power Scooter (Indoor)

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- Available through ALS Canada's Loan Cupboard
- Excellent for use indoors or on flat terrain
- Allows independent mobility over long distances
- Requires strength in core and both arms/hands to use safely
- May be uncomfortable if used for extended times
- Can be disassembled and transported in most mid-sized vehicles

### Basic Power Wheelchair

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- Available through ALS Canada's Loan Cupboard
- Excellent for use indoors and outdoors
- Allows independent mobility over long distances
- Some modifications possible for cushion style and fit
- Requires hand and arm strength to use safely
- Unable to recline or tilt - may cause discomfort over time
- Requires an accessible vehicle for transportation

### Power Wheelchair with Power Positioning

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- 75% funding available through the Government of Ontario
- Completely customized to each individual's needs
- Designed for all-day comfort with indoor and outdoor use
- Power positioning features allow independent repositioning
- Drive controls and seating can be modified over time
- Improved comfort for core or neck weakness
- Requires an accessible vehicle for transportation

### Other Power Mobility Options

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Other power mobility devices (such as portable power wheelchairs) are readily available for purchase at mobility stores or online. **However, these devices may not be appropriate for you based on your symptoms, there is no funding available for these devices, and they cannot be obtained through ALS Canada's loan cupboard.** Please speak with your OT before purchasing any power mobility device to ensure that it will meet your needs.