



# The Illinois Division of Specialized Care for Children

*Serving Children with Special Health Care Needs*

## DSCC FACTS

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### DSCC SUPPORT OF POWER MOBILITY BASES/WHEELCHAIRS

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For DSCC to determine support of power mobility bases, the following guidelines must be met, addressed in writing and submitted to the DSCC care coordinator for consideration. **DSCC purchases the least expensive equipment to meet the child's medical needs.**

- **Factors that Must be Considered** - The child's cognitive ability, coordination, depth perception, visual acuity and emotional maturity are important factors that must be considered before recommending a power mobility base.
- **Successful Trial Period** - The child should have a successful trial period during the evaluation phase.
- **Environmental Barriers** - The child should be able to use the power mobility base/wheelchair in all settings. Primary areas of concern include the child's home, school, medical facilities and transportation resources. The power mobility base/wheelchair should be able to be transported via the family's vehicle or mode of travel.
- **Purchase of Power and Manual Mobility Bases/Wheelchairs** - Power mobility bases/wheelchairs are approved only when a manual mobility base/wheelchair cannot meet the medical treatment or medical rehabilitation needs of the child. DSCC cannot purchase both a power and a manual mobility base/wheelchair or other mobility device when the mobility devices serve the same purpose in the child's medical treatment plan. DSCC will not purchase a second mobility base/wheelchair if the current device meets the child's needs. **All required information must be submitted to DSCC before a power mobility base/wheelchair is ordered for final purchase.**
- **Power Mobility Base/Wheelchair Evaluation Providers** - Mobility base/wheelchair evaluations are usually performed by physical and/or occupational therapists. The child and family should be consulted about mobility base/wheelchair features and the child's needs during the evaluation.
- **Independent Mobility Base/Wheelchair Evaluations** - If a mobility base/wheelchair evaluation has been independently obtained, or performed by a discipline other than an approved physical/occupational therapist, DSCC cannot issue a prior approval to pay for the evaluation. The recommendations can be accepted if a DSCC approved physician recommending the mobility base/wheelchair accepts the evaluation and specifications.

## Power Mobility Base/Wheelchair Documentation Requirements

- **Physician Recommendation** - The DSCC approved managing physician must recommend the power mobility base/wheelchair and approve the specifications identified in the mobility base/wheelchair evaluation.
- **Power Mobility Base/Wheelchair Evaluation** - An evaluation by a DSCC approved therapist must include information about the child's ability to use the power mobility base/chair recommended and the exact specifications needed to include environmental considerations.
- The therapist and physician should provide the information indicated in the *Power Mobility Evaluation (Form 05.35)* and complete the *Power Mobility Skills Checklist (Form 05.34)* and the *Power Mobility Base/Wheelchair Parent Questionnaire (Form 05.31)* when submitting a request for a power mobility base/wheelchair. DSCC does not require providers to use the *Power Mobility Evaluation Template* as long as the same information is provided in another format signed by the physician and therapist/evaluator. **These forms may be downloaded from the DSCC website ([www.uic.edu/hsc/dsc](http://www.uic.edu/hsc/dsc), click on Provider and scroll to "Provider Forms Available Online.") These forms cannot be submitted electronically. They must be signed by the persons indicated.**
- **Training Verification** - *An Evaluation/Training for Equipment - Family/Vendor/Therapist (05.33-1 and 05.33-2 or 05.33-3)* must be completed upon final delivery of equipment only when the mobility base/wheelchair purchased is powered. This form can be obtained from the DSCC care coordinator **or downloaded from the Internet site providers link.**

## Limitations

- **Used Equipment** - DSCC does not purchase used equipment.
- **Equipment Needed to Meet Developmental Needs** - DSCC will not support purchase of equipment based solely on meeting developmental needs. All equipment is purchased based upon documented medical necessity related to an eligible impairment.
- **Equipment Needed for Educational Purposes** - DSCC will not support purchase of equipment recommended to meet educational needs or equipment used only at school.