

Key Approval Criteria for Equipment

General Criteria:

- The equipment service will provide disability-specific equipment, not standard household items.
- The equipment will be generally be provided for the client's primary residence only
- Short-term loan of equipment will be provided where it meets the criteria below and is available from the DES store.
- The equipment item needs to be used frequently i.e. at least 3 – 4 times/ week*.

Clinical Criteria:

Department for Families and Communities (DFC) will provide equipment to enable the client to remain living at home when:

1. **safety:** the provision of the equipment item will minimise the risk of serious injury to client, carer or service provider (link to risk matrix) OR
2. **independence/function:** the client, with or without a carer, is compromised when completing tasks of daily living** without the provision of the equipment item OR
3. **the need for services:** the need for provision of or additional carer/community support services (e.g. personal care/shopping assist) is avoided/or substantially reduced by the provision of the equipment item OR
4. **potential for functional gain:** provision of the equipment item will facilitate the person to make improvements in their functional capacity OR
5. **prevention of deterioration:** provision of the equipment item will reduce progression of functional and/or postural deterioration OR
6. **the risk of hospitalisation/residential care:** immediate risk of admission to hospital or residential care would be avoided by provision of the equipment item OR
7. **the need for timely discharge from acute care services, transition care programs and rehabilitation programs:** provision of the equipment item will allow discharge home or from these programs OR

AND

- all other methods/equipment/intervention and treatment options have been considered and/or trialed with client/carer and provision of the equipment is the most appropriate and cost effective option. Equipment will be provided with the most clinically appropriate and cost effective features to meet the client's needs.

* **Frequency of Use:** of a manual wheelchair may be less than 3-4 times per week if it is the primary means of outdoor mobility. Refer to specific clinical criteria for manual wheelchairs for details.

** **Tasks of Daily Living refers to:** eating, dressing and grooming, preparing meals, mobility within the home and the community, bathing, toileting (including continence management), transfers and bed mobility, seating and postural needs (including night time posture) and core communication. This does not include transport or medication management.