# Criteria for the Provision of Electrically Propelled Indoor Wheelchairs (EPIC)[[1]](#footnote-1)

Patients must meet all the following criteria before they can be considered to be eligible for provision of an electrically powered indoor wheelchair:

1. For medical reasons, be severely and permanently restricted in mobility.

2. Be unable to walk[[2]](#footnote-2).

3. Be unable to propel a manual wheelchair indoors2,[[3]](#footnote-3).

4. Have no cognitive, spatial, visual or similar impairment (e.g. poorly controlled epilepsy) which would make their use of an EPIC a danger to themselves or other people.

5. Have demonstrated in a driving test that they have the physical and intellectual capacity to control an EPIC safely and responsibly.

6. Have a residential environment compatible with the use of an EPIC, and which includes a storage area with a power supply for a battery charger.

7. Be capable of ensuring that an EPIC is maintained adequately (charging on a daily basis, battery inspections, etc.) either personally or by a carer.

8. Will derive significant improvement in their independence and quality of life through the use of an EPIC.

9. Agree that the provision may be reviewed on a regular basis.

1. Based on the Scotland wide criteria (Version 02/10/97). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Inability to walk or propel a manual wheelchair relates to inability to walk / propel within a room and to access essential domestic home environments, e.g. bedroom, kitchen, bathroom, front door, primary dining area, etc. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. For a small number of patients it may be inadvisable on medical grounds to manually propel a wheelchair, e.g. because of increased susceptibility of upper limbs to injury. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)