Criteria for the Provision of Electrically Powered Indoor / Outdoor Wheelchairs (EPIOC)[[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 / outdoor 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 problems with visual, cognitive, visuo-spatial or other higher cortical functions or other medical conditions, which would make them a danger to themselves, pedestrians or other road users.

5. Have the ability to comply with the DVLC requirements for motor vehicle drivers concerning epilepsy and other causes of loss of consciousness.

6. Have visual acuity of at least 6/24 (can read a car number plate at 12.3 m as per DVLA recommendation) and have a field vision of 120 degrees in a horizontal plane and 20 degrees above and below this plane.

7. Undergo the training relevant to their use of an EPIOC and have demonstrated in a practical assessment and by other means that they have the insight, intellectual capacity and dexterity to operate an EPIOC safely and responsibly on their own and without assistance.

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

9. Have a local outside environment which is accessible by an EPIOC and compatible with its use (including static and dynamic stability).

10. Be able to ensure that an EPIOC will be maintained adequately either personally or by a carer.

11. Have the capacity to derive significant improvement in their independence and quality of life through use of an EPIOC.

12. Agree that the provision may be reviewed on a regular basis and that the EPIOC may be withdrawn or changed if a review reveals changes in the patient’s ability to meet any of the above criteria.

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)