



Wheelchair accessible vehicles (page 1 of 3)

In this leaflet the word 'wheelchair' includes powered wheelchairs unless one or the other is indicated.

Why a wheelchair accessible vehicle?

- to enable you to get in and out of the car if you cannot transfer
- to help reduce the number of transfers
- to reduce wear and tear on your arms wrists and hands
- to save your energy.

Funding

There is no government or other source from which all those who need to have a wheelchair accessible vehicle may get funding. Some may be able to get funding from Motability (if you meet the eligibility criteria), Access to Work or a charity. Otherwise you will have to fund the vehicle independently.

Motability

Are you eligible for the enhanced rate of the mobility part of Personal Independence Payment (PIP)? If you are you may be able to lease or buy a suitable vehicle through Motability.

For more information see - www.motability.co.uk

Access to Work

An Access to Work grant can help pay for practical support if you have a disability, health or mental health condition so you can:

- start working
- stay in work
- start your own business.

See www.gov.uk/access-to-work for more information.

If you need your information in another language or medium (audio, large print, etc) please contact Customer Care on 0800 374 208 or send an email to: customer care@salisbury.nhs.uk

You are entitled to a copy of any letter we write about you. Please ask if you want one when you come to the hospital.

Please complete The Friends & Family Test to tell us about your experience at: www.salisbury.nhs.uk/FriendsFamily or download our App from the Apple App store or Google Play Store.

The evidence used in the preparation of this leaflet is available on request. Please email: patient.information@salisbury.nhs.uk if you would like a reference list.

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Where do you want to be in the vehicle?

When thinking about a wheelchair accessible vehicle it is useful to think about where you would like to sit in the car. Do you want to be:

- in a wheelchair or in a car seat
- a passenger in the front or the back
- a driver

Entry height

- it is essential to ensure that there is sufficient space and height within the vehicle for you and your wheelchair
- allow plenty of headroom in case there are changes in your equipment (such as a different cushion or wheelchair) which raises your total height.

Space

- allow room for passengers, equipment and bags/luggage
- removable seats can give extra space
- there must be enough room for the front casters to turn through 180 degrees.

Tie-down systems

Tie-down systems safely secure your wheelchair into the vehicle. There are a number of different systems. Things to consider are whether you want:

- a manual or power-assisted system
- a tie-down system operated by another person
- an automatic docking system which is fixed to the floor of the vehicle and attaches a docking pin or plate on the wheelchair
- Check the capacity of the tie down system in relation to the weight of the wheelchair. This is particularly essential for powered wheelchairs

If an automatic system is chosen, check that there is a match between the vehicle, your wheelchair frame and the docking system.

Whichever tie-down system you use must be fully tested (including crash-testing). If you plan to travel in your wheelchair speak to your local wheelchair service and check that it too has been crash tested. Check you have permission from the wheelchair services to use your wheelchair as a seat in the vehicle.

Testing

- you must use your wheelchair and cushion or identical ones to test whether the vehicle will provide you with the access and the space that you need
- if the entry is ramped and you have a powered wheelchair test the ramp when it is wet as well as when it is dry - the wheels may slip in the wet
- Have a test drive and experience roundabouts and various road conditions, e.g. speed bumps.

Resources and Information

Driving Mobility

Driving Mobility offers professional, high quality information, advice and assessment to people who have a medical condition or are recovering from an accident or injury which may affect their ability to drive or access a motor vehicle.

www.drivingmobility.org.uk

 01872 672520.

Motability

The Motability Scheme provides a way to lease a new car, scooter or powered wheelchair. They publish a number of guides with key facts and tips about how to get the most out of the Motability Scheme. More information can be found on their website

www.motability.co.uk

 0300 456 4566

Rica

Rica is a national independent consumer research charity that produces free, practical information for older and disabled people. .

www.rica.org.uk

 020 7427 2460

If you have any questions please talk to your inpatient Occupational Therapist if you are an inpatient or the Outpatient Occupational therapy Team on 01722 336262 ext 2083 if you are an outpatient.