



Backup Power Wheelchair Repairs

Effective January 1, 2026 for Fee-for-Service (FFS) and March 1, 2026 for Managed Care, in limited instances, [Group 2, Group 3, Group 4, Group 5, and Group 6](#) power wheelchairs (PWC) with or without power options, will be eligible for use as a backup power wheelchair when the user has been provided with a new, primary PWC. This backup PWC will allow the member to maintain independent mobility when the primary PWC is being repaired or when a backup manual wheelchair or suitable loaner wheelchair that would meet the member's medical needs cannot be provided.

Overview:

<u>Eligible wheelchairs</u>	Group 2 and up power wheelchairs that had been previously used as the member's primary source of mobility	
<u>HCPCS Code for Repair</u>	K0899	Repair of any backup power wheelchair regardless of group or code at purchase
<u>Modifier/Description</u>	TW – "Back-up equipment"	Indication that a PWC is a backup device is signified by using code K0899 and adding the TW modifier
<u>Method of Authorization</u>	Direct Bill	Limited to \$5000 over a period of 5 years (PA required for total amounts exceeding \$5000 or wheelchairs greater than 10 years old.)

Details:

Please note: During repairs of Group 1 primary power wheelchairs, users should obtain a backup manual wheelchair, a temporary rental, or a loaner PWC from the DME provider.

Any repairs to a backup PWC:

- Should be indicated by using code K0899 and the modifier, **TW**.
- Repairs can be directly billed up to a limit of \$5000 over a period of five years.
- Additional repairs, or repairs to a PWC that has been used as a backup for more than 5 years would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis via prior approval. Only one backup PWC will be covered.
- Preventative maintenance is not applicable to backup PWCs.
- Labor costs would also fall under code K0899 with modifier. K0739 should not be billed for backup PWC repairs.

Requirements:

- The backup PWC should accommodate the seating and positioning components from the primary PWC to be used interchangeably. See page 37 and 38 of the [DME Procedure Code & Coverage Guidelines](#) manual.
- New PWCs should not be requested if the intended use is as a backup PWC.
- Lack of a backup PWC would cause undue hardship when the member's primary PWC is being repaired.
- The member must have adequate storage space for both power wheelchairs to be kept inside and away from the elements.
- Backup PWCs should not be used as a primary chair unless there is documented failure of the primary chair.
- The backup PWC must be used by only one person and cannot be transferred to someone else

Repairs to features that were not approved at initial issue and/or not included in the original configuration of the PWC will not be considered medically necessary. New features on the primary PWC will not be retro-fit to the backup

Documentation:

The authorized power wheelchair supplier must document and maintain all records of repairs to the current primary and backup power wheelchair. All documentation must be maintained for a minimum of 6 years and should be available when requested by the NYS Department of Health. (See 18 NYCRR § 504.3(a)) or upon audit.

- Documentation should confirm that, given the requested repair, the retired primary PWC would be a safe and suitable backup PWC when the new primary PWC is being serviced.
- Documentation for all repairs must include the serial number of the wheelchair, funding source, and date of purchase.
- The provider must document that the repairs are necessary for the backup PWC to be safe and effectively used.

For questions related to policy and coverage guidelines, contact the Bureau of Medical Review by telephone at 1-800-342-3005 or by email at OHIPMedPA@health.ny.gov.

For questions related to billing call eMedNY at 1-800-343-9000.