

**MEDICARE'S MANUAL**  
**WHEELCHAIR POLICY**

## **COVERAGE AND PAYMENT RULES:**

A wheelchair is covered if the patient's condition is such that without the use of a wheelchair, he would otherwise be bed or chair confined. An individual may qualify for a wheelchair and still be considered bed confined. This basic requirement must be met for coverage of any wheelchair.

An upgrade that is beneficial primarily in allowing the patient to perform leisure or recreational activities will be noncovered. Payment will be based on the allowance for the least costly medically acceptable alternative.

Payment is made for only one wheelchair at a time. Backup chairs are denied as not medically necessary. One month's rental of a wheelchair is covered if a patient-owned wheelchair is being repaired.

Reimbursement for wheelchair codes includes all labor charges involved in the assembly of the wheelchair. Reimbursement also includes support services such as emergency services, delivery, set-up, education and on-going assistance with use of the wheelchair.