

Physician or Doctor Overview

Who

Your first wheelchair team member will be your physician or doctor. This doctor you schedule your first meeting with about getting a wheelchair may be a general practitioner (example: Primary Care Physician) or a specialist (examples: Psychiatrist, Neurologist, or Orthopedist).

When

After you have identified the doctor you want in your wheelchair team, you must schedule an appointment with them to get a prescription for a Wheelchair Assessment. When you visit your doctor to discuss your wheelchair needs with him or her, you are beginning Step 3: Prescription and Assessment.

Note: It may be helpful to bring the 'Wheelchair Checklist' from Chapter 1 and your 'Wheelchair Team Overview' found in Chapter 2 to your first wheelchair related appointment with your doctor.

What

Your physician or doctor will:

- Write you a **prescription** for a Wheelchair Evaluation and Assessment
- **Refer** you to a clinician or therapist, usually an occupational therapist (OT) or physical therapist (PT), who will complete your Wheelchair Evaluation and Assessment (**or you may choose your own clinician**)
- It is recommended he or she be certified as an [assistive technology professional \(ATP\)](#) or a [seating and mobility specialist \(SMS\)](#).
- Pass the responsibility to **YOU to make a Wheelchair Evaluation and Assessment appointment**
- Act as your **Ordering Physician** and co-sign your **Letter of Medical Necessity**

Definitions

Prescription for a Wheelchair Evaluation and Assessment

This prescription is a request from your doctor for you to get a Wheelchair Evaluation and Assessment from an OT or PT.

Wheelchair Evaluation and Assessment

A Wheelchair Evaluation and Assessment is a series of tests done by an OT or PT where they examine you physically and review all your needs to determine the best wheelchair equipment for you.

Letter of Medical Necessity

The 'Letter of Medical Necessity' is a letter written by the clinician to the company paying for your wheelchair, which justifies your need for the chair. This letter is co-signed by the ordering physician and often includes supporting documentation may come from several other specialists who are involved in your care.

Ordering Physician

Typically, your doctor is listed as the "Ordering Physician" because they wrote your prescription for your wheelchair evaluation.