Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

About Durable Medical Equipment: Transport Wheelchairs

This resource explains what a transport wheelchair is, how to use it, and where you can buy one.

What is a transport wheelchair?

A transport wheelchair is lighter and easier to use than a standard wheelchair (see Figure 1). It is sometimes called a companion chair or roll-about wheelchair.

A standard transport wheelchair can support up to about 300 pounds. A heavy-duty transport wheelchair can support up to 400 pounds. Check with the wheelchair manufacturer to see how much weight your wheelchair can support.



Figure 1. Transport wheelchair

How to use a transport wheelchair

Transport wheelchairs are useful if you do not always need to use a wheelchair but want to use one sometimes. They are not made to be moved by the person sitting in the wheelchair. A caregiver has to push the transport wheelchair.

Some people choose to use transport wheelchairs to safely travel to and from their appointments. Transport wheelchairs are not made for long distance travel. If you want a wheelchair for longer distances, ask your nurse about getting a standard wheelchair.

Where to buy a transport wheelchair

You can buy a transport wheelchair at:

- Medical supply stores.
- Medical supply websites, such as wheelchair.com.
- Retail drug stores (Walgreens or CVS).
- Supercenters (Walmart or Target).
- Online retailers (Amazon).

Ask your insurance provider if your plan covers transport wheelchairs. Some plans only cover a wheelchair if you have a prescription. Ask your healthcare provider for a prescription if you need one.

If you have questions or concerns, contact your healthcare provider. A member of your care team will answer Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Outside those hours, you can leave a message or talk with another MSK provider. There is always a doctor or nurse on call. If you're not sure how to reach your healthcare provider, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.

About Durable Medical Equipment: Transport Wheelchairs - Last updated on April 7, 2026
All rights owned and reserved by Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center