



About

The Wheelchair provision guidelines aim to support equitable access to appropriate wheelchairs for all those in need, by providing a clear set of recommendations for Member States to use in developing or strengthening wheelchair provision. These guidelines offer recommendations for optimizing service models and policies, drawing from the 2008 WHO Guidelines and best practices in various contexts. Ultimately, the purpose of these guidelines is to ensure that wheelchair users have timely access through wheelchair services that are peoplecentred and responsive to their needs.



Guiding principles

- **Right to mobility:** Everyone has a fundamental right to personal mobility, as expressed in various international agreements.
- **People-centered approach:** Users should be actively involved in choosing and receiving wheelchairs, not treated as passive recipients.
- **Integration with healthcare:** Wheelchair provision should be part of universal healthcare, ensuring access without financial burden and contributing to the "leave no one behind" goal of sustainable development.
- **Equitable access:** The wheelchair system should be fair and just, providing equal support to everyone in need, regardless of background or circumstances.

Implementation Highlights

- **Dissemination:** WHO will spread the guidelines globally through webinars, conferences, and workshops, engaging ministries, UN agencies, NGOs, and disabled people's organizations.
- **Policy:** Member states will map and strengthen policies for wheelchair provision, identifying gaps and opportunities.
- **Data:** Standardized data collection will track progress and inform improvements in wheelchair provision.
- **Products:** Feedback loops will connect users, manufacturers, and suppliers to improve wheelchair quality and suitability.
- **Minimum Product Range:** Countries can identify essential wheelchair models for inclusion in universal healthcare coverage.
- **Protocols and Guidelines:** Tailored protocols and guidelines will improve decision-making in healthcare systems for wheelchair users.
- **Competency Framework:** A model framework will define roles and training needs for wheelchair service personnel.
- **User Collaboration:** Active engagement with wheelchair user groups will increase awareness and demand for appropriate services.