

## How is my VCH Basic Wheelchair Maintained?

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Your care home will perform regular cleaning of your VCH Basic Wheelchair and cushion. General maintenance will be provided regularly by the supplier at no cost to you.

You may be responsible to cover the cost of damage or repairs that fall outside of what would be considered typical 'wear and tear'.

## What happens when I no longer need my VCH Basic Wheelchair ?

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The VCH Basic Wheelchair is a loan from VCH. It must be returned to the supplier when it is no longer in use. It must be returned to the supplier in its original condition. Your care home can arrange the return for you.

## Contact

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Assisted Living Professional Practice Team**  
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# VCH Basic Wheelchair Program



Making better  
decisions together  
with patients  
and families

For more copies, go online at [vch.eduhealth.ca](http://vch.eduhealth.ca) or  
email [phem@vch.ca](mailto:phem@vch.ca) and quote Catalogue No. **FA.260.V34**  
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The information in this document is intended solely for the  
person to whom it was given by the health care team.  
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## What is the VCH Basic Wheelchair program?

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A provincial program operated by Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) that loans a basic wheelchair to anyone living in a publicly funded Long Term Care Home who has been assessed as needing one. The wheelchair is loaned to the resident at no cost for as long as it is needed.



A basic wheelchair is a: a manual, adjustable, lightweight frame with 250lbs weight capacity that is easy to move, includes a basic contoured foam seat cushion, soft upholstery back support and removable foot supports.

## Who is Eligible for the VCH Basic Wheelchair Program?

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Anyone who is living in a VCH publicly funded Long Term Care Home, and has been assessed by an occupational or physiotherapist as needing a basic wheelchair.

If your occupational or physiotherapist has recommended a specialized wheelchair such as a tilt-in-space wheelchair, a wheelchair with a higher weight capacity, or powered wheelchair, you will not be eligible for the VCH basic wheelchair program.

## A VCH Basic Wheelchair has been recommended for me. What do I need to know?

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When an occupational or physiotherapist assesses you for a VCH basic wheelchair, they will take some measurements of your body, and send recommendations to the Basic Wheelchair Program supplier. This assessment may be completed in hospital or community or it may be completed by a therapist at your care home.

Once the supplier has received the recommendations they will set up a wheelchair according to your specific measurements and will deliver the VCH Basic Wheelchair to your care home within approximately 5 days.

The wheelchair and cushion will be labelled “Property of VCH”, and your care home may also label the wheelchair with your name so that it does not get lost.

The VCH Basic Wheelchair that is provided with will not belong to you; but it will be set up according to your needs and should only be used by you. You can take your wheelchair indoors or outdoors, as long as you are a resident in a VCH publicly funded Long Term Care Home.

If you move out of a VCH Long Term Care Home, you will not be able to take your VCH Basic Wheelchair with you. It is only available as a loaner to residents of VCH publicly funded Long Term Care Homes. Please speak with your occupational or physiotherapist should you be planning to move out of a VCH region care home.

## Can my VCH Basic Wheelchair be modified or adjusted?

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Your occupational or physiotherapist may recommend a ‘modified’ basic wheelchair for you. This includes a VCH basic manual wheelchair with non-permanent changes (ie. more supportive backrest, non-foam cushion, elevating leg rests, tray, etc). These modification costs are not included under the Basic Wheelchair Program and would need to be paid for by you or your family. Any permanent changes made to the VCH basic wheelchair will lead to costs for which you would be responsible.

The VCH basic wheelchairs have some adjustability, including various widths, depths, heights and wheel sizes. Speak to your occupational or physiotherapist if you feel that your VCH Basic Wheelchair is not fitting you well.