

# Community Equipment

Information about free equipment to help you live more independently



# Community Equipment

Information about free equipment to help you live more independently and safely at home

## Small items of equipment

You, your carer or a member of your family should contact the local pharmacy you have chosen (see list of pharmacies on page 2 of the separate Community Equipment form) to find out when your equipment will be ready for collection.

When you contact the pharmacy, you will need to tell them:

- Your equipment Prescription Number
- Your surname (family name)
- Your postcode

If they have the equipment already in stock, you may be able to collect it within 24hours.

If the item is not in stock, they will order it and will let you know when it will be ready.

## Do I have to pay for the equipment or pay to have it fitted?

You have been prescribed a basic level item of equipment which is free. However, when you go to the pharmacy to collect it, they may be able to show you a range of similar, but more expensive products that may have additional features not included in the prescribed item, or perhaps in a more attractive colour. If you would prefer to have one of these items instead of the basic item, you may do so and pay any difference in price direct to the pharmacy.

You cannot exchange your prescribed equipment for equipment that is functionally different to the item prescribed or for medication or therapy (for example a raised toilet seat). There is no charge for delivering or fitting equipment.

## **Delivery and fitting larger items of equipment**

If a large piece of equipment that has been ordered for you needs fitting (for example, a bath lift) your pharmacy or a company called **Care Necessities** will contact you to arrange a suitable date and time to visit and carry out the work. If equipment has been ordered for you with **Care and Mobility**, they will contact you directly to arrange a suitable date and time to visit and carry out the work.

Any small items of equipment we have ordered for you will be delivered to you at the same time.

## **Where do I go if I want to buy additional equipment that is not included in my assessment?**

You can speak to staff in your local pharmacy or Care and Mobility who will give you advice about equipment to suit your needs. Care and Mobility keep a stock of most items and also have a display of many items of equipment.

## **Useful websites**

There is information and advice about equipment at the following websites.

### **AskSARA**

Find out what equipment you may need  
[www.asksara.org.uk](http://www.asksara.org.uk)

### **Care and Mobility**

Displays a wide range of equipment available to buy  
[www.careandmobility.co.uk](http://www.careandmobility.co.uk)

### **Disability Living Foundation**

National charity giving independent advice on equipment  
[www.dlf.org.uk](http://www.dlf.org.uk)

### **Living made easy**

Clear, practical advice on daily living equipment  
[www.livingmadeeasy.org.uk](http://www.livingmadeeasy.org.uk)

### **Ricability**

Independent charity supporting older and disabled people  
[www.ricability.org.uk](http://www.ricability.org.uk)

## What should I do if I don't need the equipment any more?

If you are given a prescription for your equipment, then the equipment belongs to you. Once you have finished with the equipment if it is a small disposable item you can throw it away (for example a long handled sponge or cutlery).

Large items of equipment (for example a commode or bath lift) can be returned to:

**Equipment Loan Service  
Units 12-15 Mainstream  
47 Devon Street  
Nechells  
Birmingham  
B7 4SL**

If you had the equipment delivered and fitted, or the item can be recycled please telephone the Equipment Loan Service on **0121 465 1750** and they will arrange for it to be collected so the item can be reused.

## More information

If your needs change, or you would like any further information, please contact:

**The Older Peoples Access Service (OPAS)**

Phone: **0121 303 1234**

Textphone: **0121 303 6230**

Email: **OlderPeoplesAccessService@birmingham.gov.uk**

Website: **www.birmingham.gov.uk/CommunityEquipment**

