

# 2007

## manual chair

### comparo



#### How to Read This Comparo

- All information, including category of wheelchair, is self-reported by participating manufacturers.
- "N/A" is listed when a particular feature or measurement was not listed by the manufacturer or did not apply to the wheelchair model.
- Total Chair Weight: First listed weight includes wheels, footrests & all standard equipment. Second listed weight includes chair weight without wheels & footrest(s).
- Front & Rear Seat-to-Floor Height: From floor to top of cushion. First measurement = front height; second measurement = rear height.
- Total Chair Width: Includes wheels.

CMS Update

## NEXT UNDER THE MICROSCOPE: Manual Chairs

As power wheelchair coverage determinations, new codes and new fee schedules — not to mention accreditation and competitive bidding — have received intense attention from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) the last couple of years, a team of industry experts has quietly been working on the next mobility/rehab product segment to go under CMS' microscope: manual wheelchairs.

For about the last 18 months, a National Coalition for Assistive & Rehab Technology (NCART) work group has been meeting "to put together a proposal for manual wheelchair codes," says John Vadeboncoeur, Invacare Corp.'s VP & category manager of standard products and a member of

the work group. The request for the work group, Vadeboncoeur adds, came directly from the Statistical Analysis Durable Medical Equipment Regional Carrier (SADMERC), and the group has met multiple times with SADMERC medical director Dr. Doran Edwards. Among the companies participating in the workgroup were Convaid, Sunrise Medical and TiLite, Vadeboncoeur says, in addition to Invacare Corp.

The need for the work group, Vadeboncoeur explains, comes from the fact that currently "in the adult wheelchair category, you've got nine codes. I think coming down the pike with competitive bidding, and trying to make sure that products are apples to apples that fall within those codes,

it was appropriate for (CMS) to come out with something that was a little more definitive to the market and that can better define the market for our customers and users."

The work group's proposal, he says, "expands the codes to around 60. Really what we tried to do was define the codes by technology. Based on that, the technology should have a clinical benefit, which ties to who qualifies and how it helps them."

That's different, Vadeboncoeur points out, than the manual chair coding and definitions that exist today. "The difference between a K0001, a K0003 and a K0004: pounds. The only differential between a K0003 and a K0001 today by Medicare's definition is 2 lbs. of weight."

## Manual Chairs

When small amounts of weight are the main distinguishing features between wheelchairs in different codes, Vadeboncoeur says it can become difficult to justify a higher-end chair for a client. And the chairs themselves can be difficult to differentiate from each other if a relatively slight difference in product weight is the main distinguishing factor.

“You have products in the K0004 code that are nothing but a glorified standard wheelchair that’s made a little bit lighter,” Vadeboncoeur says. “(They’re) not much different than a K0001/K0002 chair that’s out there.” Lightening the chair could be accomplished a number of ways, he says, including “taking away functions and features.”

In that same K0004 code are higher-end models “that are full-fledged light rehab chairs that you can configure in numerous different ways. But it’s all paid at the same level.”

Weight also is a distinguishing factor in

bariatric manual chairs. In that case, a chair’s weight capacity determines its code. “We basically have two codes out there to cover anything that holds more weight than 250 lbs. You have K0006, which is 300 lbs., and K0007, which is anything that holds 350 lbs. or more.” Current codes do not differentiate between standard chairs with weight capacities close to that 350-lb. mark and chairs with weight capacities twice as high or with the ability to handle rehab-type configurations and applications.







To improve this situation, the work group “came up with a code set that allows us to differentiate the product by features, not just by weight, though weight is a factor,” Vadeboncoeur says. “Then we could tie those features to a clinical benefit, which should help Medicare with writing their local coverage determination. Hopefully, we created codes that will create more stratification. And in addition to that, there should be some clear-cut ways to qualify somebody for that chair, instead of just saying, ‘They need a chair that’s 2 lbs. lighter.’ Right now on the K0005, you’ve got one category that covers everything from an ultra-lightweight titanium to a low-end folder K0005. So (the work group) split those out based on how light they were, and then all the features and what you can do with them.”




Vadeboncoeur says the work group also “created different weight categories for every code. So you have a standard wheelchair, which would be your K0001/K0002, and then we have weight categories within that. . . We’re not saying that you don’t have to give technology to people just because they need a heavier-duty chair. If they need more functionality or features out of a product to live an independent and mobile life, they can get that.”




NCART has also suggested building in quality standards for manual chairs, and CMS has indicated interest in using the current ANSI/RESNA guidelines as the basis for those standards. That would be a significant change, as CMS does not currently mandate quality standards for manual wheelchairs it purchases.




With new power chair coverage criteria, coding and fee schedules now largely out of the way, Vadeboncoeur says CMS plans to start working on manual chair policies: “They’re ready to get these implemented and out to the market early next year.”




And while manual wheelchairs were not on the initial list of product categories to be competitively bid, Vadeboncoeur says the work group is keeping that possibility in mind. “We’re making sure that if (manual) wheelchairs do get added, providers are quoting apples to other apples out there. If (CMS) decided today to competitively bid a K0004 chair, you could be all over the map with what you’re bidding.”

Manufacturer/Model Name		Frame Type	Chair Weight	Seat Widths	Back Height	Front/Rear Seat-to-Floor Height	Total Width	Weight Capacity	Total Length	Rear Wheel Sizes	Caster Sizes	Frame	Tilt/Recline?	Category
Dreamer Design	Axiom	Folding	37 lbs., 25 lbs. (size 2); 39 lbs., 27 lbs. (size 3)	15" (size 2); 18" (size 3)	28" (size 2); 31" (size 3)	15"; 21"	24" (size 2); 27" (size 3)	150 lbs. (size 2); 200 lbs. (size 3)	58" (size 2 and 3)	16"	8"; 16" front	Aluminum	18°	Pediatric
														
Drive Medical	Silver Sport 2	Folding	35.8 lbs. (16"); 37 lbs. (18"); 37 lbs. (20") (w/all equipment)	16", 18", 20"	16"	19.5" (front)	21" (16"); 28" (18"); 30" (20")	250 lbs.	42"	24"	8"	Steel	No	Standard
														
Invacare Corp.	Compass XE	Folding & Rigid configurations	32 lbs.; 27 lbs.	12-24"	14-24"	13.75- 20.75"; 15-21.25"	Seat width +8"	250 lbs. (standard version)	38"	20", 22", 24"	3", 5", 6", 8"	Aluminum	170° recline available	Ultralightweight
														
Invacare Corp.	ProSPIN X4	Folding	28 lbs.; 22 lbs.	14-24"	10-20"	13.5-20.5"; 13.5-20"	Seat width +8"	250 lbs. (stan- dard); 350 lbs. (heavy- duty ver- sion)	36"	20", 22", 24", 25", 26"	3", 4", 5", 6"	Aluminum	No	Ultralightweight
														
Invacare Corp.	Top End Crossfire Series	Rigid	18.5 lbs.; 10 lbs.	12-20"	8-20"	16-21" w/o cushion; 14-20"	Seat width +7" w/0° of camber	250 lbs.	34"	22", 24", 25", 26"	3", 4", 5"	Aluminum or Titanium	No	Ultralightweight
														
Ki Mobility	Catalyst 4	Folding	28 lbs.; 17 lbs. (16x16")	14", 16", 18", 20"	16.5- 19.5"	15-21"; 13.5-18.5" (no cushion)	Seat width +6.5"	250 lbs.	N/A	22", 24"	4", 5", 6", 7", 8"	Aluminum	No	Lightweight
														

Manufacturer/Model Name	Frame Type	Chair Weight	Seat Widths	Back Height	Front/Rear Seat-to-Floor Height	Total Width	Weight Capacity	Total Length	Rear Wheel Sizes	Caster Sizes	Frame	Tilt/Recline?	Category
Airlite Pro													
 Küschall	Rigid	20 lbs.; 13.2 lbs.	13.4-17.3"	10.6- 18.9"	18.9-20.1"; 15-19.3"	Seat width +9.1"	264 lbs.	29.9"	24", 25", 26"	4-6"	Aluminum	No	Ultralightweight
FYU-JON													
 Nissin Wheelchairs	Folding	23 lbs.; 19 lbs.; (16x16")	10-20"	12-20"	16-20"; 14-18"	Seat width +6"	250 lbs.	Short, medium, long	22", 24", 25", 26"	3", 4", 5", 6"	Aluminum	No	Ultralightweight
VERVE													
 Nissin Wheelchairs	Rigid	19 lbs.; 15 lbs.	10-20"	10-20"	15-22"; 12-22"	Seat width +6"	250 lbs.	Varies	22", 24", 25", 26"	3", 4", 5", 6"	Aluminum	No	Standard

Manufacturer/Model Name		Frame Type	Chair Weight	Seat Widths	Back Height	Front/Rear Seat-to-Floor Height	Total Width	Weight Capacity	Total Length	Rear Wheel Sizes	Caster Sizes	Frame	Tilt/Recline?	Category
PDG	Stellar	Rigid	47 lbs.; 40 lbs. (18x18")	14-32"	18-26"	14-20"; 14-20"	Seat width +9.5" (12" or 16" wheel) or +10.5" (20" or 24" wheel)	250 lbs. standard; 450 lbs. heavy-duty package	30-37"	12", 16", 20", 24"	6 x .125"; 8 x 1.25"	Aluminum	0-45° of dynamic tilt	Tilt
														
Pride Mobility Products	Stylus	Folding	33 lbs.; 17 lbs. (16x16")	16", 18", 20"	15-17", 17-19"	15.5-19.5"; 14.5-19.5"	24" (16x16")	250 lbs.	30" w/o legrests	20", 22", 24"	5", 6", 8"	Aluminum	No	Standard
														
Quantum Rehab	Litestream XF	Folding	29 lbs.; 13 lbs. (16x16")	14-21"	12-19"	15.5-19.5"; 14.5-19.5"	23" (16x16")	250 lbs.	28" w/o legrests	20", 22", 24", 26"	4", 5", 6", 8"	Aluminum	No	Ultralightweight
														

Manufacturer/Model Name	Frame Type	Chair Weight	Seat Widths	Back Height	Front/Rear Seat-to-Floor Height	Total Width	Weight Capacity	Total Length	Rear Wheel Sizes	Caster Sizes	Frame	Tilt/Recline?	Category
Quickie GT 	Folding	20.5 lbs.; 12.3 lbs. (16x16")	12-20" in 1" increments	10-18"	16-21"; 14-20"	22"	265 lbs.	Varies by configura- tion	22", 24", 26"	3", 4", 4x1.5", 5", 5x1.5", 6", 6x1.5"	Aluminum	No	Ultralightweight
Sunrise Medical													
Quickie GTX 	Folding	Fixed front 16x16": 22.6 lbs.; 16.3 lbs. – Swing Away 16x16": 27.3 lbs.; 17.6 lbs.	12-20" in 1" increments	10-20"	14.5-21"; 12-19.5"	Varies by configura- tion	250 lbs. (stan- dard); 308 lbs. (heavy- duty)	Varies by configura- tion	20", 22", 24", 26"	3", 4", 4x1.5", 5", 5x1.5", 6", 6x1.5", 7"	Aluminum	No	Ultralightweight
Sunrise Medical													
Zippie Iris 	N/A	Varies by configura- tion; 22 lbs.	10-18"	Varies by configu- ration	11-19.5"; varies by configuration	Varies by configura- tion	150 lbs.	Varies by configura- tion	12", 16", 20", 22", 24"	4x1.25", 5x1.5", 6x1", 6x1.5", 8x1", 8x1.5", 8x2"	Aluminum	- to 50°; 0° to 55°; 5° to 60°	Pediatric
Sunrise Medical													

Manufacturer/Model Name	Frame Type	Chair Weight	Seat Widths	Back Height	Front/Rear Seat-to-Floor Height	Total Width	Weight Capacity	Total Length	Rear Wheel Sizes	Caster Sizes	Frame	Tilt/Recline?	Category
TR 	Rigid	17.6 lbs.; 9.9 lbs. (16x16")	12-20"	8.5- 20.5"	16-21"; 14-20"	22.25"	250 lbs.	N/A	20", 22", 24", 25", 26"	3", 4", 5", 6"	Titanium	No	Ultralightweight
TiLite													
TX 	Folding	20 lbs.; 12.3 lbs. (16x16")	12-20"	8-20"	15-21"; 14-19"	22.25"	250 lbs.	N/A	22", 24", 25", 26"	3", 4", 5", 6"	Titanium	No	Ultralightweight
TiLite													
Razorblade 	Rigid	16.8 lbs.; 8.8 lbs.	14-18"	8-18"	17.5-19.5"; 14.5-18"	20-30"	250 lbs.	28"	24", 25", 26"	3", 4", 5", 6"	Aluminum	No	Ultralightweight
Colours Wheelchair													

## Manufacturers' Source List

**Colours Wheelchair**  
860 E. Parkridge Ave.  
Corona, CA 92879  
(800) 892-8998  
[www.colourswheelchair.com](http://www.colourswheelchair.com)

**Dreamer Design**  
P.O. Box 369  
Selah, WA 98942  
(800) 278-9626  
[www.dreamerdesign.net](http://www.dreamerdesign.net)

**Drive Medical Design & Mfg.**  
99 Seaview Blvd.  
Port Washington, NY 11050  
(877) 224-0946  
[www.drivemedical.com](http://www.drivemedical.com)

**Invacare Corp.**  
One Invacare Way  
Elyria, OH 44035  
(800) 333-6900  
[www.invacare.com](http://www.invacare.com)

**Ki Mobility**  
4925 Coye Drive, Suite D  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
(800) 981-1540  
[www.kimobility.com](http://www.kimobility.com)

**Kuschall**  
MAP Mobility & Access Products, Inc.  
202 International Drive  
Oakdale, PA 15071  
(888) 253-6677  
[www.kuschallna.com](http://www.kuschallna.com)

**Nissin Medical, Inc.**  
3551 Voyager St., Unit 102  
Torrance, CA 90503  
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[www.nissinusa.net](http://www.nissinusa.net)

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[www.pdgmobility.com](http://www.pdgmobility.com)

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[www.pridemobility.com](http://www.pridemobility.com)

**Sunrise Medical**  
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Longmont, CO 80503  
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