

## **Equipment and Modification Services (EMS)**

### **Changes to the Prioritisation Tool and Introduction of the EMS Portal**

**21 February 2019**

The Ministry of Health (the Ministry) funds equipment and modification services that are assessed as meeting the essential needs of a person with a disability and that support their independence and safety in the most cost-effective way.

The EMS Prioritisation Tool was developed and implemented nationally in 2014 to prioritise access to complex equipment and modifications for disabled people with the highest level of need and the greatest ability to benefit. This removed the necessity for waitlists and disabled people were given surety about receiving equipment and modification solutions.

The Ministry sent all EMS Assessors a communication in December 2018 advising there would be changes made to the process to request equipment and modifications to meet only essential disability related needs. This has resulted in changes to the existing Prioritisation Tool which will be introduced at the end of this month.

#### **EMS PORTAL**

The key changes being introduced to the new **EMS Portal** (formerly known as the Prioritisation Tool) are:

- The Impact on Life Questionnaire (IoL) and Assessor Evaluation section are no longer required and will be removed.
- Sections of the previous Assessor section will be replaced with a Rationale Form when requesting items from Bands 2 and 3 List equipment, non-list equipment, housing modifications and vehicle purchase and modifications.
- Band 1, 2 and 3 Equipment Lists have been changed with some items added and some removed. Some Band 2 List equipment will no longer be available for trial, it will be provided as direct issue. Same form, fit and function reissue equipment will be issued first without discussion with the EMS Assessor.
- Consultation with an EMS Advisor will still be available if you wish to discuss a solution with an EMS Advisor or require advice about eligibility or access criteria.

The Ministry will continue to collect the valuable national demographic information on disability type and the equipment and modifications that are funded using the existing functionality in the EMS Portal.

The new **EMS Portal** for Equipment and Modifications will be available **from 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019** from which time the **Rationale form is required to be completed** for all Bands 2 and 3 List equipment, non-list equipment, housing modifications and vehicle purchase and modifications.

EMS assessors are reminded that we continue to experience a significant overspend against budget. A further important update to our September 2018 communication will follow in the next two weeks.

Please read the following document:

[\*The Equipment and Modification Services Prioritisation Tool Changes February 2019\*](#)

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