

# Requests we cannot fund

## 1. Items where we would be replacing statutory funding

This includes:

- Home adaptations if the applicant has not completed either the local authority Disabled Facilities Grants process (England, Northern Ireland and Wales) or Scheme of Assistance (Scotland).
- Grab rails and similar small works as these should be provided through social services occupational therapy (OT) department.
- Items such as eating and drinking devices, pressure mattresses and walking frames if these should be provided through the NHS to meet an essential health need. Statutory funding is becoming increasingly limited for such items, and we can consider requests if a relevant person at the health authority confirms the lack of funding in writing.
- Respite care costs if the applicant has not contacted their local authority about help first.

## 2. Items that are not supported by a relevant health professional

- For example, exercise equipment that is not supported by a physiotherapist, as we need to know the item will be safe and suitable for the person to use.

## 3. Items which have already been paid for, or a deposit placed

## 4. Any ongoing or long term costs, or everyday living costs

We do not have the resources to commit to any long term costs. This includes:

- Emergency phone lines and panic alarms.
- Regular care (including child care) costs - however specific care hours may be considered under the Short Breaks and Activities Fund to help a carer take a break from their role.
- Regular travel costs.
- Utility bills, food (as an exception, a branch may consider one off assistance in an emergency situation - for example food vouchers where there has been a problem with benefits payments, or help for heating oil if this has run out completely and the person is at risk as a result).

- Repairs and replacement batteries for wheelchairs and scooters (as an exception, a branch may consider this as a one off in an emergency situation such as a person becoming unable to leave their home. You would need to explain that this help could not be repeated and that the person needs to budget for future upkeep).

## **5. Items where there is no link to a person's MS**

- For example, general household repairs or household items. However in exceptional cases, where the impact of not having the repair or item could impact on their health or well-being, and their income is low due to their MS a grant may be considered.

## **6. Legal costs or insurance**

## **7. Debts**

- Other than bankruptcy or debt relief order fees following specialist debt advice.

## **8. Treatments**