

TO: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

FROM: ALS Advocate Comments Collected by The ALS Association

SUBJECT: Proposed National Coverage Determination for

Power Seat Elevation on Power Wheelchairs (CAG-00461N)

DATE: March 17, 2023

Mrs. Sheila McKaig-Devlin

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>For years, my sisters and I had to pick my father up from a wheelchair and put him into bed, onto the toilet, into the car, or any other location other than his wheelchair. Any device that could've made this task. Easier is mandatory. Any device that could assist a patient suffering with ALS or assist their caregiver In providing optimal care should be mandatory. The disease is brutal enough, to then have to fight for what is needed is an outrage. I put yourself in someone else's shoes just for a minute and you wont think twice about voting yes for this simple request.</p>
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Elizabeth Hampton

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>Imagine you are YOU, right now, with your intellect and emotions and words to say, yet each of your muscles are slowing melting away with progressive loss of function until your diaphragm gives out and you can't breathe anymore. That is ALS. It is truly one of the most horrible diseases that ends up 100% in death, guaranteed.</p> <p>While fighting this disease, it is a gamechanger for Medicare to remove an additional fight for fundamental equipment that prevents injury and supports quality of life during at times a rapid decline.</p> <p>Adding seat elevation in power chairs will enable me to transfer my husband into a hospital bed and back without injury; it enables me to lower the chair to get under tables so he can sit and join our family and friends at the table. Covering seat elevation prevents injury of caregivers and folks with ALS.</p> <p>Think of yourself or your partner or child in that chair. Is adding power elevation truly that hard? Negotiate a price so medical companies have a reasonable write off, and make the approval process FAST. Folks with ALS don't have much time. This is a reasonable ask. Please do the right thing.</p>
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/25/2023

Kari Fisher

<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p>	<p>My Dad had ALS for about 4yrs. When he passed away he looked like a holocaust victim, tiny, frail, skin and bones. During his battle we had to try multiple types of chairs. A power chair w elevation would have been so helpful in getting him up from the chair. It would have decreased the risks of skin tears while trying to get him up. It would have helped prevent hurting his arms while getting him up. It would have helped make things more comfortable for him. Help ALS patients and their care givers. Approve the elevation to the power chairs.</p>
<p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Denise Batten-Spokas</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p>	<p>An elevated seat would give ALS patients more independence. They could raise their seat to transfer into bed easier. Seat elevation in power wheelchairs would help care givers of ALS patients experience less back and shoulder pain when lifting patients. My mother's shoulder is permanently out of place due to the constant care of my father.</p> <p>Watching my father pass away from this horrible disease was something that is difficult to put into words, but looking back, I see how having a power wheelchair with seat elevation would have made him feel less dependent on my mother and his care givers. It's bad enough to live with ALS, but to have to always depend on other people for your care makes it worse.</p> <p>I BEG YOU TO PLEASE COVER THE COSTS OF SEAT ELEVATIONS EQUIPMENT FOR POWER WHEELCHAIRS!!</p>
<p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Mr. John Werner</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p>	<p>Care givers have it bad enough when trying to hoist a man whose limbs no longer work. Just imagine trying to get transport help when you need to be lifted from a low chair to higher seating !</p>
<p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Bettina Krampetz</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p>	<p>Lost My husband toALS. Seat elevation in the wheelchair was imperative.</p>
<p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Lyn Camella-Rich</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p>	<p>I have 2 friends who have ALS, and my maternal grandmother died from this debilitating terminal disease. There are no words that amply describe the day to day struggles of patients and caregivers go</p>

through. This is just one of the many basic necessities these folks deserve.
Date Submitted 2/23/2023

Mr. Paul Van de Riet

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

Hi,

We (but mostly our Mom) cared for our dad during his five years of living with ALS and having a wheelchair was helpful but having elevation would've made her life a lot easier (and his) and so I think this would be a wonderful thing to see happen (although my mom said her arms got very strong from lifting him).

Thank you,

Paul Van de Riet

Date Submitted 2/23/2023

Ms. Dortha Meadows

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

That's awesome. Seat elevation in a wheel chair helps caregiver get them out of chair.

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Dee Chavez

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

My mother paid for the seat elevation seat when she was diagnosed with ALS. This made it easier to care for her when washing her hair- we could wash her hair at the kitchen sink and she was more comfortable. It also saved my back not having to lean so far over to care for her feet. She enjoyed it to be able to see people at their height. The electric seat elevation also gave her independence and control.

Date Submitted 2/23/2023

Lorelle Jones

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

My husband died from ALS in 2010. Seat elevation in his wheelchair would have made both of our lives easier. It would have helped in moving him from chair to toilet, etc. I wasn't strong enough to lift him from the chair. Please do whatever you can to make the lives of folks living with ALS easier. There's so little that can be done for them!

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Lee Skelton

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>Arms too weak to assist getting up; Stuck sitting is like torture: bottom consequently sore; back becoming stiff and neck stiff and rigid due to lack of upright walking ; increased psychological and physical weight of strain on my wife owing to increased tethering to elevation assistance; declining feet and foot strength due to being noticeably less ready standing engagement.</p> <p>Hardship at coming to a stand to then partake and engage in many fronts feels like an exponential hindrance that is tilting directly to a tangible, and sticky, sting of despair.</p>
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/24/2023
<i>Amy Gutierrez, MD</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>Many of my patients need this system to be able to complete their activities of daily living and have as much independence as possible. This allows them to live a more robust quality of life</p>
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Andrea Poehling</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>Thank you for proposing that Medicare cover costs of seat elevation equipment for power wheelchairs. This issue is important to me because my loved one lived with ALS and his wife (also a loved one of mine) served as his caregiver. He was fortunate to have had seat elevation on his power wheelchair. This enabled him a measure of independence, even when the disease advanced. He was able to prepare his own meals and take care of his grooming. This alleviated some of the considerable responsibility and stress on his caregiver, who managed his care and the running of the household. The independence that the seat elevation equipment provided was beneficial in practical and physical terms, while also allowing them to focus on their relationship during his final years. I sincerely hope that Medicare covers these costs so that others living with this terrible disease will have their lives made a bit easier. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/24/2023
<i>Bridget Hunt</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>This would be very helpful thank you so very much I hope you come through with this</p>
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/25/2023
<i>Paula Chevrier</i>	

<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>As an aged caregiver myself, seat elevated equipment helps my family member continue to maintain some independence as well as preventing caregiver injury. Thank you.</p> <p>2/25/2023</p>
<p><i>John McQuillin</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>I am the primary caregiver for my wife and having a wheelchair that gets to counter height would be a great benefit in her struggle with daily mobility tasks.. Please support approval of height adjustable wheelchairs</p> <p>2/23/2023</p>
<p><i>Danielle Fitzpatrick</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>Seat elevation in power wheelchairs would decrease the likelihood of shoulder and back injuries in caregivers. As a former caregiver and a physician, I strongly advocate for any assistive device that can not only improve the quality of life and safety of the patient, but also the caregivers, who often sacrifice themselves and their own bodies in service of their loved one. Moreover, seat elevation would optimize the patients' ability to safely transfer, as well as position themselves in the optimal way for communication (in the case of using an eye gaze device, for example), as well as to improve quality of life in their ability to perform ADLs.</p> <p>2/23/2023</p>
<p><i>Sharon Hallman</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>I treat people with ALS and other neuromuscular diseases and recommend equipment to manage the rapid progression of weakness and the subsequent mobility problems. A seat riser on a wheelchair is an essential feature for many people with ALS.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When legs are weak it allows the user to raise the surface so they can stand to get in and out of the chair safely without requiring an additional caregiver. 2. If shoulder weakness is prevalent, it allows the user to reach things at counter height, get something from the refrigerator, turn on lights etc. again minimizing the need for a hired caregiver to accomplish these small fears of independence. 3. In later stages of the disease, caregivers can tend to the physical needs of the individual such as managing bowel and bladder, feeding tube etc. at a safe height. <p>Please support Medicare coverage for seat risers on power wheelchairs.</p> <p>2/23/2023</p>

Lyndal Brown

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	I currently live in assisted living and the facility has no openings under the sinks, so without being able to elevate my seat I cannot reach the faucet handles. Because of this I have to pull myself up and try to balance there (which is very dangerous for me as I have only one good leg to offer support and my balance is nil) to do any chores or personal hygiene at both sinks. Having elevation on my wheelchair would also allow much more independence to get things out of cabinets and clothes off hangers.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023

Richard Jahn

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	This is very important for people with ALS as you get weaker from the Disease you can no longer lift.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Kim Conforti

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Seat elevation will help with quality of life physically and mentally people would be able to position themselves differently at times when needed and also become eye level with others. It will also help caregivers from having to always lift the patient and may be able to keep care at home longer depending on the caregivers' abilities
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Jeannie Driscoll

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My mother passed before the government step in to help and I wish she would have received the help that ALS patients are getting today. And yes there is still a lot of work to be done. But if you have the power to help them get through it please help. Unless you have actually known or have talked to a ALS patient you have no idea what they go through every day if they can get some relief from the pain that they endure every minute please help thank you JEANNIE McClintock Driscoll
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023

Amy White

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	ALS is 100 percent fatal. Daily tasks become unable to be performed without help. And then completely. Everything ALS related should be 100 percent paid. These patients are living a life of hell
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Mrs. Judy Cambier

<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>While my sister is in heaven with her Heavenly Father now, the seat elevation in her power chair Would have been a true blessing. Going forward for others this is crucial for their care.</p> <p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Cindy Halvorson</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>Please support the seat elevation in power wheelchairs. My sister-in-law had ALS and it was devastating. To give them a little bit more ease is what those effected with ALS deserves. Please, please pass this coverage.</p> <p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Judith Koebel</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>Beginning in July 2002, I started falling down for no reason. After 9 months of testing with various doctors, I was diagnosed with ALS on 4/17/2003. I would be able to work until December 2004. At that point, I filed for SS DISABILITY. I was accepted at that time but had to wait 6 months before I would get paid. I was slowly losing mobility. I received my first electric wheelchair in April 2005. We have done several things to update the house for my wheelchair, which at that time I had to pay out of pocket. We bought a new van to accommodate the new wheelchair. Expenses were astronomical until we realized that we could get help.</p> <p>When my husband retired in January 2016, I was forced to get Medicare. That was helping with medical expenses. We were introduced to ALS Association and they have helped tremendously with other costs.</p> <p>I have been somewhat stable over the last 15 years with little changes. Probably in the last 10 years, there were not any changes. In April I plan to celebrate 20 years with ALS.</p> <p>I didn't get married until I was 40 and was 45 when I was diagnosed. My husband is WONDERFUL as he has helped me every day and didn't leave me. He lived up to "in sickness and in health". He does EVERYTHING for me.</p> <p>I am truly BLESSED.</p> <p>2/23/2023</p>
<p><i>Bonnie Pastre</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p>	<p>I was a wife/caregiver for Trimble McCullough who passed away from ALS in May of 2020. When his first wheelchair was ordered, we could not afford the extra 1,000 dollars to add the seat elevation</p>

mechanism. This was the only wheelchair he ended up owning, as he died after almost 8 years. He still was not ready to get a new chair, according to Medicare, after he became completely unable to stand. Or to get out of the chair without a sit to stand machine. He would have benefitted greatly from this mechanism, as his feet and lower legs became constantly swollen. We had to use a leg pump apparatus to bring down the swelling. If he had been able to stand with assistance, this might not have been necessary. Also, it would've been something he could have done by himself, and not another thing that I needed to do for him. You cannot overlook the importance of what a caregiver goes through to take care of their person with ALS. This would have greatly improved his shortened life.

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Michael Hengel

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

I have ALS in my family genes. Sitting in a wheelchair for the last months of life is alienating because height is important in conversation, doing simple tasks (in a home not perfectly wheelchair adapted), and even in helping caregivers to transfer from wheelchair to other device.

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Judy Grimes

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

I have a sweet friend who has been diagnosed with ALS that can use any and all help she can get!!! She's young, newly married (8 yrs) and is just devastated by this horrible disease. Her husband has had to quit his job to stay home and take care of her.

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Shruti Modi

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

Seat elevation in power wheelchairs are proven to be useful and beneficial for those living with ALS. The diagnosis of this disease is devastating for not only that individual, but also their caregivers. Most importantly, seat elevation features help to prevent injuries, for those with ALS and their caregivers alike. In addition, after having so much of their functionality affected, being able to use seat elevation to perform daily living activities can help those living with ALS feel some semblance of independence and productivity. It is useful for those with limited mobility, and can reduce the strain on both parties when they need to be transferred from the wheelchair to other surfaces, such as beds and chairs. The majority of individuals who are diagnosed with ALS are faced with overwhelming financial stress, and cannot afford professional in-home medical care to help with these things that many take for granted. As such, seat elevation in power wheelchairs is incredibly

<i>Date Submitted</i>	necessary and would provide significant benefits to those living with ALS, as well as their caregivers. 2/22/2023
<i>John Marshall</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Lifts for wheelchairs provide freedom which is what the USA is supposed to be about. So, Congress, stop the oil subsidies and tax cuts for oligarchs and get with the caring crowd! Cover wheelchair lifts today!
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Tyrone Stewart</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	This would end accidental drops and slips
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Adriana Brito</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My husband has ALS for 6 years and in the beginning a lifting power wheelchair would had helped him and myself a lot. The pALS is already deprived of so much but being in a social world to be able to look eye level, in a way can make he/her feel a little more inclusive. For me this is one of the most important reasons. Be able to still feel part of a world that in a very short time will be taken away from he/her.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Mr. John DiNoia</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	When my Grandfather Thomas McLaughlin, my mother Kathy DiNoia and her siblings, and 2 first cousins needed absolute help getting up and down after being diagnosed with ALS. I saw first hand the importance of seating elevation. As for my mother and Uncle John McLaughlin, their electronic elevation chair was not only very helpful for the patient, but also extended their very last little bit of feeling independence.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Phyllis Wilson</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My dearest friend Val, who is like a little sister to me has ALS and I know if she had a wheelchair with the feature to elevated her in her seat it would enable her to be able reach do many thing that she can't teach now. When she was find raising a few months ago my husband and I

<i>Date Submitted</i>	<p>donated \$500 to support her and her cause. So let's help those who have ALS get the best equipment possible to make their lives easier. Thank you so much. The Big Sister, Phyllis</p> <p>2/22/2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Mr. Russell Tallant</i></p>
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>It's wonderful that Medicare is proposing to cover costs of seat elevation equipment for power wheelchairs! This is absolutely necessary for patients and caregivers alike. My mother had ALS, and I cared for her until her death. Having elevation equipment would have made our lives much better.</p>
<i>Date Submitted</i>	<p>2/22/2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Jacalyn Carden</i></p>
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>Seat elevation is integral to quality of life. We use it to help my husband brush his teeth, sit at the same level with us at the kitchen counter, rise up to empty his urinary catheter bag, be on the same level as those who are standing in a social situation, and to make it easier on medical personnel for examinations and PEG and suprapubic catheter replacement. Without this functionality, I cannot imagine how we would get through the activities of daily living.</p>
<i>Date Submitted</i>	<p>2/22/2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>David Rigoni</i></p>
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>As a person experiencing ALS firsthand, I cant express how important seat elevation is for maintaining a basic quality of life. Thank you for your support of this proposal.</p>
<i>Date Submitted</i>	<p>2/22/2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Michela Laible</i></p>
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>The ability for an ALS patient to elevate in their power wheelchair is one SMALL way of allowing them some sense of "normal" life in a world that is no longer normal. I paid out of pocket for the seat elevation on my husband's PWC. It allowed him to participate at "eye level" in activities with others. Such a key component to his quality of life! ALS is an incredibly expensive disease to have. Please, please, please make this a covered expense under durable medical equipment.</p>
<i>Date Submitted</i>	<p>2/22/2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Mrs. Robbin Mensching</i></p>

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Please let people suffering with ALS have chair elevation power chairs. My husband died of this terrible disease. We were so lucky that his insurance allowed him to have a chair with elevation and it was so helpful in the everyday care for him. If the person has a slow moving case it would allow that person more independence. But in a fast moving case it is an invaluable tool in the everyday care for the sufferer and could allow family and friends to help rather than hiring care workers.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Barbara Spanola</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	I feel this is very important to me because it would help my brother tremendously. He suffers from this terrible disease. If would help my brother get around at home better
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023
<i>Jacquelyn Logan</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My brother in law has been immensely helped having an elevated wheelchair!!!It allows him to join with others at many levels Please offer this to all ALS patients. Thank you.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/24/2023
<i>Joseph Clemente</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	I follow a couple impacted by ALS on social media and I feel like this will help the individual who am has the disease and his caregiver.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Elizabeth Rookey</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>I'm a 61 yo mother of a 31 yo son who has been living with ALS for 30 years. I need my seat elevation in my chair so that when I'm in a group of people, standing & talking, I am able to elevate and talk with them without them having to bend down to make eye contact. It's not fun staring at waistlines when you're talking!</p> <p>It's important to caregivers that I can elevate so it's easier to brush my teeth, put on make-up etc. without them bending over, saving them physical discomfort!</p> <p>Having seat elevation is important to me because I can still be part of the conversation, when it's time for pictures I can be at nearly the same the same height as those around me.</p> <p>Please cover seat elevation in wheelchairs! Thank you, Beth Rookey</p>

Date Submitted | 2/22/2023

Wayne Sullivan

CMS Seat Elevation Comment | Seeing my close friend with ALS 100% incapacitated is brutal. His wife struggles with getting him in and out of his chair. Any mechanical assistance would be fully justified.

Date Submitted | 2/22/2023

Ms. Joan Brown

CMS Seat Elevation Comment | Please approve the proposed coverage of seat elevation equipment for power wheelchairs for ALS patients. Seat elevation in power wheelchairs will improve the quality of life for me as a caregiver of loved one living with ALS in many ways. It is very difficult to lift and raise my loved one from their chair. Seat elevation will greatly assist me, as a caregiver, when transitioning my loved one from the seat to the bathroom, to the bed, to the car, anywhere they need to be. It will help me to retain my health (saving my back!) while I continue to assist my loved one. It would also preserve what little dignity my loved one has left due to the limitations created by ALS. They will be more comfortable, retain some independence, better able to access/reach for items needed and be more mobile thanks to the assistance of seat elevation. The seat elevation equipment will also reduce the risk of injury for my loved one as well.

Date Submitted | 2/22/2023

Wil Murtaugh

CMS Seat Elevation Comment | I am a person living with ALS and to seat elevation in a power wheelchair would be amazing. I can be on level with my family when they are standing. I don't have to look up and they don't have to look down. I can't thank you enough for doing this. It will be so helpful to me and my caregiver to have the ability to go up and down.

Thank you!

Date Submitted | 2/22/2023

Ricky Judge

CMS Seat Elevation Comment | I have ALS and cannot understand why Medicare would have to think about adding the elevation part of a wheelchair, if you are wheelchair bound and have to reach into a upper cupboard or anything beyond your reach a elevation seat is crucial for daily living.

Ricky Judge

Date Submitted | 2/22/2023

Mary Hook

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Please cover! This is mandatory for optimal treatment! My brother died of ALS in 2017. Thank you!
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Candace Menzel

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Seat elevation is vital for everyday management in dealing with this terrible disease. I truly hope Medicare will make it official and start covering this expense.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Linda Scanlon

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Seat elevation in power wheelchairs would have been a back saver for me as a caregiver of two loves of my life, my dad died from ALS my husband diagnosed shortly after and died from ALS both within five years. Their inability to lift themselves up had been taken from them by the disease. One must remember that people with ALS do not lose the ability to process what is happening to them. They are helpless in their bodies and realize what their caretakers must do repeatedly for them day after day. Us caregivers must lift our loved ones who are dead weight several times a day. Lift them for bed, toileting, bathing, and repeat. A lift elevation boost will save our backs and make it easier for the patient to accept the help more readily knowing that it is a little bit easier for their caregiver to help them. You can't possibly understand a 24/7 full time job day after day lifting and pulling until you've done it yourself. Please help our ALS patients and their caregivers by making these lift boost seats a reality.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	Linda Scanlon 2/22/2023

Ms. Andrea Byrne

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	For five years I was a caregiver for a person dear to me who was living with ALS. For thirteen years I worked in Care Services with people living with ALS. In both circumstances I saw how important the seat elevation aspect of a power wheelchair was for them to continue to do things for themselves, to feel part of conversations, and to have a better sense of dignity. In addition, it made life easier for the caregivers to assist them with feeding and other necessary activities. Please provide Medicare coverage the seat elevation for power wheelchairs. It is critically important. Thank you.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Robert Quisenberry

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Seat Elevation in wheelchairs is so important for maintaining the accessibility & dignity of users in several ways. First, it allows the wheelchair user to elevate high enough to access higher cabinets and shelves at home and in stores, etc. Secondly, in social settings it allows the user to elevate above "butt" level of people that are standing so that everyone is not looking down on the user when talking. Any element that provides some normalcy when in a wheelchair really matters to the users and their caregivers.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Valerie Todd

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Seat elevation for power wheelchairs is essential to the independence for ALS patients. This feature enables the patient to adjust to different environments both at home and away. At home, the patient is able to reach countertops, use the refrigerator, use a mirror to comb their hair, get clothes from their dresser, or comfortably look out a window to name just a few. For the caregiver, the elevation eases the care by being able to raise the patient for hair washing, dressing, and assisting at mealtime. Providing a level of independence to an ALS patient is a step in maintaining their dignity.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/24/2023

Jared Neterer

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>Seat elevation in power wheelchairs has many benefits, physically and mentally, both for the wheelchair user and caregivers.</p> <p>Physically, it allows the power wheelchair expanded mobility to complete more tasks on their own. They are able to reach higher items that normally would be out of reach. This would allow the wheelchair user to complete a task instead of relying on a caregiver, freeing up time for both. Also, it allows caregivers to take care of the person in the wheelchair easier. My mother would have my father use the seat elevation in a higher position to more easily trim his toenails.</p> <p>I believe the bigger advantage of seat elevation is the mental improvements. My father would use the seat elevation function frequently when his grandchildren were playing outside so he could see them easier. While he was inside, if he sat up higher, he had a better view of the yard and could watch them, which just made his day so much better. Also, raising oneself to be able to be more eye to eye with them while they are talking to you is mentally better than constantly being looked down on while conversing.</p>
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/28/2023

R Strobel

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment Date Submitted</i>	THIS CAN REALLY HELP ME. I NEED THIS 2/22/2023
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Cindy Buchholz

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment Date Submitted</i>	My father died from ALS 13 years ago. We purchased a recliner with a seat elevation system so that it would be easier for him, and for us, to get him in and out of a sitting position. Of course his wheelchair did not have this system so it took two or three people to get him in and out of his chair. I am surprised that 13 years later this system is not standard equipment in wheelchairs. As a previous caregiver to a person with ALS I can absolutely say that this system would be a game changer for patients and caregivers alike. 2/22/2023
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Susan Keldani

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment Date Submitted</i>	People with ALS have a very debilitating disease that drastically changes your life and then ends your life. Limits put on your body are horrible because your mind is completely fine. Anything that will help with the limitations is a huge benefit to live with dignity during the time you have left. 2/22/2023
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Ms. Brenda Gabrielli

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment Date Submitted</i>	These pts are losing all independent functioning abilities they have. Lets keep some of their dignity while they are with us! 2/22/2023
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Fabian A. Castillo

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment Date Submitted</i>	As an ALS patient, I ask your help us with this needs, our life is very difficult each day and having this equipment, it will improve our lives. Thank you for your support. God bless you. 2/23/2023
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Jennifer Geller

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	ALS robs those afflicted of so much, but having ability to elevate helps them to maintain dignity and also to maintain some level of their previous independence as their disease progresses. My brother, Robert Busch, had an elevated chair - this improved his overall quality of life and helped reduce caregiver burdens.
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However, my brother also had the financial abilities to do this as he possessed a high paying job prior to his diagnosis. If he did not have the financial ability, he would not have been able to afford the elevated chair as it was not covered. No ALS patient should have to go without an assistive device such as an elevated wheelchair. After witnessing the horror of ALS firsthand, I implore anyone who has the power to make this decision to be aware this added benefit will greatly help all ALS warriors and their loved ones, to help keep them in their home during the battle for their life, which is exactly where they belong. If Rob were here still, he would beg for this to be made accessible to all ALS patients regardless of their income and/or financial status given the tremendous out of pocket expenses for other ALS care needs.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Geller, RN, BSN
 Sibling of ALS warrior

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Mark Palahniuk

CMS Seat Elevation Comment My father in law with als could really use this and works greatly help my mother in law taking care of him

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Molly Mahoney

CMS Seat Elevation Comment I was diagnosed with ALS in November 2019. I began using my power chair in 2022. I have the elevator seat. The raised seat allows me to brush my teeth, get food out of the refrigerator, open my house blinds, reach items in my pantry, get dishes out of my cupboard, heat up my food, and talk to people at eye level.

I think it is essential that ALS patients Have some semblance of normalcy which the elevated chair provides. It also allows me to be more independent while I can, meaning before my body muscles totally give out.

The elevated seat provides access to normal household features without expensive modifications, such as lowering cabinets, removing cabinet doors, etc.

I have only been awake for two hours and have used my elevated seat seven times already this morning. All of my morning activities, involved, activities of daily, living, such as taking medicine, brushing teeth, getting coffee, getting clothes from the dresser. All

<p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>of this I was able to do on my own without my health care giver, which saves me quite a bit of money.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>2/22/2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>John Tichenor</i></p>
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>Seat elevation would allow me the flexibility to continue activities such as cooking, working on my roses, or working in the garage. Thank you for considering this coverage, it would benefit so many.</p> <p>2/22/2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Patrick Rafferty</i></p>
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>An elevated wheelchair is part of a quality of life. When one is at standard chair level all the time one feels like a child, always having to look up to try and be part of the conversation.</p> <p>Perhaps more important is the ability to change positions and take the pressure off your bottoms form sitting all the time. This can cause sores and general discomfort. Since the muscles no longer allow in to shift and stretch the ability to adjust the chair allows one to ease the pressure points.</p> <p>Please, please, please improve the quality of ALS patients by having Medicare pay for seat elevated wheelchairs.</p> <p>Thank you so much!</p> <p>Patrick</p> <p>2/22/2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Miriam Kramer</i></p>
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p>	<p>As someone who cared for my mom with ALS it was very difficult lifting her from a wheelchair in and out to bed, a vehicle, a lift-i damaged disks from the extreme difficulty and my mom would bruise from the lifting-it hurt her and ALS is a disease with no cure-why must the individual suffer the humiliation of improper lifting, movement, pain because wheelchairs do not make the task easy. Please, whether its ALS or done other nerve disease-people are suffering when their time is so limited.</p> <p>Theyve already been denied so much in treatment. This is simply about quality of the limited quantity they and we have left.</p> <p>My mom Has been gone 10 years April 27th. I still get emotional thinking about the fight to protect her and how the medical system failed her.</p>

Please approve the elevation lift for all the families currently in a fight for their lives.
Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Mrs. Cynthia Tantum

CMS Seat Elevation Comment ALS is the most cruel disease known to man. There is not enough done to cure this disease. I believe because the life expectancy is so short. Numbers are not true to mankind. I believe the seat elevation on power wheelchairs is absolutely necessary and crucial to help anyone with this disease. I lost my hound mother at age 60 to this heinous disease and would do anything to have her back. I truly hope you LISTEN to HEAR those of us who advocate for these necessary items to help those suffering enormously with this devil disease.

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Olga Jimenez

CMS Seat Elevation Comment This is a great initiative and will improve the live of all the people with ALS

Date Submitted 2/23/2023

Thomas Lessig

CMS Seat Elevation Comment With all the abilities that have eroded for my father, the ability to rise out of his wheelchair on his own is a big victory for him. This is one more way he can hold on to another small piece of his independence

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Mr. Don Delaney

CMS Seat Elevation Comment I was a part-time caregiver for a friend who passed away a couple of years ago. I was also a family member of a patient who passed away over 30 years ago. As far as I know, seat elevation equipment was not even available when my family member passed away, but was available for my friend's use before they passed away. So I have seen first-hand what an amazing and crucial difference this equipment can make both for the patient and for their caregivers. I fully support the effort for Medicare to cover the costs of providing this equipment.

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Veronique Jeanmarie

<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>Seat Elevation in power wheelchairs will greatly improve the quality of life for those with ALS. As ALS is a devastating disease, anything that helps with mobility issues will be a tremendous help.</p> <p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>2086291307 David Irvine</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>power wheelchairs are not a want but a NEED. Since I paid out of pocket for elevation seat, it has improved my ability both a home and outside the home. I use it getting groceries and in almost all stores. Also in public places where I can not see, be it a person in front of me, at a concert, ball game, at cultural events and many more place. It is essential that they be allowed as standard equipment.</p> <p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Kim Kirsch</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>This is a terrible and devastating disease. Any help offered for this population is beneficial to help them live with some dignity and meaning to life. Please help where you can.</p> <p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Sue Vantrees</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>I have helped so many people that have ALS. When they get to the point where they can't use there legs anymore or even on there way there, the ALS patients absolutely need it. They themselves and or there caregiver need it for the extra help. So THANK YOU for doing all you can.....</p> <p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Theresa Schlecht</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>My boss has a son living with ALS, seat elevation in power wheelchairs is medically necessary and would improve his quality of life and his friends he has made who also have ALS. Seat elevation in power wheelchairs does or would improve the lives of those whom give care and would make their jobs so much easier.</p> <p>I lost a Grandpa several years ago with ALS and this would have made his life and the quality of his life and his caregivers as well! Thank you for your time! ALS is an awful disease and any help that can be given would be greatly appreciated and would benefit many people!</p> <p>2/23/2023</p>

Alyson Ball

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	A neighbor has ALS and seat elevation in his wheelchair is now essential for his care. Our neighbor's wife no longer has the strength to lift her husband - so seat elevation should be covered by Medicare. How can you not cover this important function in his wheelchair? Thank you.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Mrs. Gloria Grieco

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My 30 year old daughter died of ALS. An seat elevated wheel chair would have allowed her to do more things for herself and less dependent on others.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Shirley Morgan

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	I have a close college girlfriend who developed ALS after working as a dental hygienist for 30 plus years. I know for a fact that seat elevation in power wheelchairs would improve her quality of life. In addition it would make her caregivers more effectively support her in her incredibly difficult journey. thank you. Shirley Morgan, RDH,QOM
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/25/2023

Mrs. Nancy Homan

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>My 38 year old sons March 2017 ALS diagnosis caused him to need a power wheelchair by mid 2018. He continued to work another 1.5 yrs. He had to support his family. He had been denied seat elevated coverage from his work insurance they model what Medicare covers. My son paid out of pocket for seat elevation so he could talk face to face with colleagues at social gatherings or meeting them in hallways or break rooms. He didn't feel looked down on. The same goes when he was at sporting events watching his 2 sons compete. He talked to other parents face to face. He was part of the standing group. He would go on walks with his wife-able to have eye contact in private moments. ALS Life for his family meant losing part of my son everyday. Having the elevated power wheelchair did give him increased confidence at work, spirit of comradery with sports parents & improve his limited quality of life.</p> <p>Its too late for my son. After 5.5 years, he lost his ALS battle in August 2022in his memory I submit his story of LIVING with ALS to the fullest. Please approve coverage of seat elevation. It is the means to level the playing field so to speak (be at eye level) for an ALS patient trying to LIVE, WORK, & LAUGH everyday with ALS.</p> <p>Respectively, Nancy Homan</p>
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<i>Date Submitted</i>	A Mom who mourns the lost of her 44 year old sons battle to live with ALS 2/22/2023
<i>Michelle Boehler</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My husband had ALS and when he could no longer walk or stand , taking care of him became extremely difficult. We had to pay for his chair seat lift and it was wonderful. A caregiver needs all the equipment necessary to help them take care of their loved one at home. It can mean the difference between living at home or having to live in a nursing home. No one wants to live their final days in a nursing home. You want to be in your own home with family and friends that will spend time with you. Please allow this to happen for the patient and the caregiver. It is so very important. Thank you Michelle Boehler
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Larry Amy</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	When my wife was diagnosed with ALS, we were devastated. Our lives were changing despite all of our careful planning. She eventually lost the use of her legs and we moved her to a medical bed in what used to be our breakfast room. The power wheelchair allowed her some limited freedom and control but getting her into and out of the wheelchair from the bed proved challenging. I was unable to physically lift her and no one else was available to assist me in the transfer. We struggled to make the transfer as she was also physically weak in her arms. Having the bed and the wheelchair at the same height would have been a great help as I could have slid her from one to the other using a sheet. As it was, it quickly became too difficult to perform this operation and she resigned herself to just living out her life in bed. So sad for us both to see your loved one dying a slow death and not being able to do anything about it.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/27/2023
<i>Trish Trull</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My friend recently passed away with ALS. It was heartbreaking to watch the struggles her husband had in caring for her. The seat elevation equipment for a power wheelchair would have helped tremendously with her care. They struggled financially because of the medical costs that was not covered by any insurances. This proposal would benefit the ALS Community greatly.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/24/2023

Beth Chlopek

<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>To be able to elevate the seat on a powered wheelchair allows access to be able to get into a car without having to have necessarily a special vehicle to accommodate the wheelchair becoming the seat for us and would also help any disabled person with difficulty getting into a car be able to travel to and from doctors with less or no difficulty. So please allow us to be able to go places easier and have that small perk be a blessing in a time of extremely challenging circumstances, Beth Chlopek</p> <p>2/22/2023</p>
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Kevis Cole

<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p>	<p>I AM NOW 51 YEAR OLD AFRICAN AMERICAN; WHO WAS EMPLOYED AND MAKING \$100,000+ INCOME A YEAR AS AN IT PROFESSIONAL. I HAD OVER 25 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT BEFORE MY MEDICAL INJURY; AS A RESULT OF DR CHARLES HUBBARDS' NEGLIGENCE. IT TOOK ME 4 YEARS TO IDENTIFY THE SOURCE OF MY MEDICAL CONDITION BY VISITING SEVERAL MEDICAL SPECIALISTS AT THE MAYO CLINIC(ROCHESTER, MN); DR BRIAN STRAUSS (ORTHOPEDIC SURGEON/FORMER MAVERICKS TEAM DOCTOR - DALLAS, TX) DR JEFFEREY ELLIOTT - CHIEF NEUROLOGIST UT SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER - DALLAS. TX. I WAS DIAGNOSED IN 2009 WITH AUTOIMMUNE ALS.</p> <p>MY DOCTORS, FOUND THAT DUE TO THE BONE GRAFT USED BY DR HUBBARD DURING MY SURGERY CAUSED A VIRAL INFECTION IN MY BLOOD AND BODY; SINCE DR HUBBARD FAILED TO PRESCRIBED ANTI-REJECTION DRUGS. WHEN I NOTIFIED DR HUBBARD OF MY ISSUES DURING POST-OP VISITS FOR MY ANKLE SURGERY HE PERFORMED; HE WOULD SAY I HAVE SLIGHT ARTHRITIS TO EXPLAIN THE STIFFNESS IN MY BODY; OR ALLERGIES TO EXPLAIN MY SUDDEN SLURRED SPEECH, I DID NOT BELIEVE HIM AND BEGAN TO SEEK OUT MORE SPECIALIZED CARE TO UNDERSTAND THE CHANGES IN MY BODY.</p> <p>DUE TO THE TORT LAW REGARDING MEDICAL MALPRACTICE THERE IS NO PROVISION FOR ADEQUATE TIME FRAMES FOR DISCOVERY SO A COMPLAINT CAN PROVIDE THE BURDEN OF PROOF WHEN A MEDICAL INJURY OCCURS; WHICH IS MY CASE. LAWYERS, I SOUGHT COUNSEL FROM; DID NOT WANT TO TAKE MY CASE OR EVEN TRY BECAUSE OF THE MALPRACTICE LAWS IN TEXAS. MY RIGHTS TO FAIR LEGAL REPRESENTATION WAS DENIED. I FEEL MORE ACCOUNTABILITY NEEDS TO BE AFFORDED FOR TEXANS BEING SUBJECTED TO CARELESS AND NEGLIGENT MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS.</p> <p>DUE TO MY WORSENING HEALTH; I CAN NO LONGER OBTAIN</p>
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<p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT; BEFORE MY MEDICAL INJURY AND NOW AM ON DISABILITY AND A UNCERTAIN FUTURE REGARDING MY MEDICAL CONDITION AS IT HAS WORSEN.</p> <p>Kevis A Cole - ALS patient 2/22/2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Frank Zottoli</i></p>
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>I have had ALS for more than 11yrs. which is unusual. I think of many circumstances over that time and now when a motor on my chair to control the height would have been and can be a godsend. I highly recommend that you pass legislation in favor of Medicare funding the motors to lift and lower wheelchair seats for ALS patients.</p> <p>Thanks, Frank Zottoli 2/24/2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Linda C. Henry</i></p>
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>Seat elevation would mean we could stop adding uncomfortable cushions that fall off and would make me so much more independent and not ask for help to stand!! YES PLEASE!!! It would help caregivers so much to not have to lift ALS victims/patients!!!!</p> <p>2/22/2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Megan Ryno</i></p>
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>As a caregiver for a person with ALS, I can confidently state that seat elevation in power wheelchairs improves the quality of life for the person with ALS by allowing them to sit in a more comfortable position. Being in a more comfortable position allows them to better interact with the world, and be more present with their family and friends. It prevents strain on a body that is already strained in so many other ways.</p> <p>As a caregiver, seat elevation also brings me comfort, because I know my person with ALS is as comfortable as they can be for the moment, and are not in a position to be injured.</p> <p>2/22/2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Lizbeth Diehl</i></p>
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p>	<p>My husband is not in a wheelchair yet, but I can only imagine that a lift in a wheelchair would not only be about living with dignity, but also the ease of moving from the chair to the bed, or the car etc. It would be a blessing to both the patient & the caregivers.</p>

Date Submitted | 2/23/2023

Elizabeth Baker

CMS Seat Elevation Comment Why would make life even harder for those living with ALS? Seat elevation wheelchairs and similar devices often allow for patient to have a little more independence for longer and also assists with keeping caregivers safe. This is something very small they can improve the quality of someone's life.

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Mr. John Lautzenhiser

CMS Seat Elevation Comment Individuals need and benefit from all the support that can be made available to them. Just apply the golden rule and know the right thing to do. John Lautzenhiser

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Barbara Conklin

CMS Seat Elevation Comment My brother-in-law died from ALS. Life would have been easier for him with the seat elevation seat for power wheelchairs.

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Ashley Loyning

CMS Seat Elevation Comment I'm a Speech-Language Pathologist currently practicing at the ALS Association and urge Medicare to recognize the value in covering seat elevation for people living with ALS (pALS) and other conditions. Seat elevation allows pALS to access their environment with reduced barriers and enables them to participate in medical and social activities with increased independence. Increased independence results in decreased dependence on caregivers and reduces caregiver burden and burnout. Due to the typical rapid progression of ALS, it is crucial that Medicare cover seat elevation and expedite the process for pALS to ensure they can participate as independently and as long as possible.

Thank you,
Ashley Loyning, M.S., CCC-SLP

Date Submitted 2/23/2023

Ms. Kristy Allen

CMS Seat Elevation Comment I am a physical therapist who has specialized in treating patients with ALS for the past 18 years. The majority of pALS will require a power wheelchair for mobility at some point in the progression of

their disease. A seat elevator is a vital part of that power wheelchair to allow people to reach items such as light switches, access counter tops, faucets, stove tops etc. It is needed to allow people who require a wheelchair to be independent with the daily activities and interact within their environment. the seat elevator also allows patients to be independent longer with transfers from their chair. The elevated seat height requires less LE strength and balance allowing them to safely transfer to a toilet/commode or their bed. For people who require family members to assist them with transfers, being able to elevate the chair significantly improves the safety and difficulty with assisted transfers as well. Without the seat elevator most patients will require a Hoyer Lift which is an additional cost.

There is also the social and mental aspect of a power seat elevator. It allows the person to interact with family members, medical personal and friends at the same eye level. It can not be overstated how important this is for someone's mental health.

As a practitioner who specializes in ALS patient care and also wheelchair clinics I have never understood how a power seat elevator was not a covered item. There are few things that would improve a person's quality of life when in a power wheelchair more than a seat elevator.

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Rev Dr William C Hassel

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

hi, i have had ALS for 15 years and always paid the out-of-pocket cost for the elevated seat lift. although it put additional burden on my budget, it is absolutely necessary for my quality of life. it is needed for reaching items above me, necessary for transferring me to my bed without a major lifting struggle and needed for my tube feeding for nourishment. please support this addition for all the other people who are confined to a wheelchair. thank you.

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Mr. Steven Rakers

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

My father suffered from ALS and it was a painful experience for both my father and our family. This cruel disease eventually took his life. It was a horrific tragedy of the mental and financial stress that it put on my father and our family. Resources were hard to find, so every new addition to services is a great relief to both patients and families.

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Michael Little

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

Elevated wheelchair seat will help me be able to reach some kitchen cabinets and shelves in refrigerator, get in and out of bed easier, on and off toilet. Also will be able to get up to the table to eat meals. It

Date Submitted | will make it easier for my wife to help. I was diagnosed limb onset Oct 2018.
2/22/2023

Mark Reavis

CMS Seat Elevation Comment | Observing life from down below is yet another slap in the face with this disease. Not being able to look out windows, straining your eyes trying to see the faces of other people you're with because your neck is weak and your head sags, and having to do all your grooming in a mirror sitting on the floor. These are just a few of the negative impacts a standing chair could eliminate. It's just one dignity after another stripped away from us with this disease. It would be nice to feel my government is willing to enhance my life. Thank you for considering this life changing option for every one of us living in a wheelchair because of diseases and accidents we didn't choose.
Date Submitted | 2/22/2023

Mrs. Jamie Schwartz

CMS Seat Elevation Comment | This is so important for ALS patients quality of life and function.
Date Submitted | 2/22/2023

Ms. Johnette Davies

CMS Seat Elevation Comment | The ability to use seat elevation technology helps prolong the autonomy of ALS patients and provides a better quality of life. It is crucial for caregivers. Lifting someone from a seated position can be challenging, if not impossible depending on the circumstance. Seat elevation technology assists caregivers, who may have their own health issues and not be able to lift the patient without causing harm to themselves.
Date Submitted | 2/26/2023

Kimberly Busch

CMS Seat Elevation Comment | Power wheelchairs for ALS patients are not a luxury but a necessity. It can improve their quality of life and provide them with some ability to have freedom or independence from a caregiver. My brother battled ALS for 3.5 years. I find it sad on the way Medicare treats people with this disease that is 100% fatal. I would hope Medicare decision makers would take the time to meet with patients with ALS to better understand how they can help vs. trying to save a \$ to make a budget. Quality of Life (QOL) is critical for these patients and none of them should be "fighting" with Medicare to be granted a wheelchair and/or features in a wheelchair that can help their QOL. They should be spending their time shortened life spans living and making memories

with their families vs. fighting with Medicare. Best- Kim Busch (Sister of Rob Busch who fought ALS for 3.5 years before passing in March 12, 2021)
Date Submitted 2/24/2023

David Mischo

CMS Seat Elevation Comment The ALS story is not pretty. Having a wheelchair with a riser seat chair is our gift. It so much makes our life easier as we go through our challenging days. We would sure appreciate it if we could get some assistance. I feel it is not only ALS patients/caregivers but many patients of various diseases that would be impacted.
Please would you consider assistance to people who need to have a "lift" in their lives.
Thank you
JoAnn
Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Corinne Dominguez

CMS Seat Elevation Comment My brother has ALS and this will allow him to be able to see the world even when he gets to the latter stages of his disease please approve this in order to provide a better quality of life for all patients that have ALS
Date Submitted 2/23/2023

Jared Kerns

CMS Seat Elevation Comment Being in the DME industry I have seen many patients whose lives would significantly improve with the coverage of power seat elevate. I have seen this simple addition give patients independence by allowing them to operate their microwaves allowing them to prepare food for themselves.
Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Don Worden

CMS Seat Elevation Comment The seat elevator has allowed me the ability to reach countertops to brush my teeth, reach tables at the proper height, to look people at eye level when having a conversation, reach the sign in desks for doctors visits, to raise to the same level as others at church when we are singing and so much more!! It also helps me get up the wheelchair ramp which requires your feet to be raised and look out our patio windows so I can enjoy the view. All of this to say, it has made my quality of life so much better and would want that to be available for all who need it, especially ALS patients with such a short life span upon diagnosis!!!

Date Submitted | 2/22/2023

Patty Bradshaw

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

I was a caregiver for a beautiful woman with ALS for about 3 1/2 years. This disease is wretched. Seat elevation is one way to make their lives a little less miserable. Please give all you can to help people with ALS and their families cope with this (so far) incurable disease.

Date Submitted 2/23/2023

Denise Williams

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

A seat elevator on a power chair greatly improves the quality of life for someone living with ALS. Our Mom benefitted greatly by having the ability to speak to people at eye level, and reach items where she needed too. This also benefitted me as her caregiver to focus on other things needing to be done leaving Mom independent a little longer. Remember, ALS strips the individual from living a independent and normal life. We should not have to apply for grants to get what our loved ones NEED. Thank you!!

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Amanda Pieters

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

Supporting a dear friend with an ALS diagnosis, I learned quickly that little things can add up to big impacts, especially in everyday life. Seat elevation in power wheelchairs is a simple, and powerful, way to help maintain a person's integrity and quality of life while living with an incurable disease. It is also a wonderful way to help improve the life of caregivers.

The physical limitations, and sometimes rapid symptom changes, that come with ALS require caregivers and people living with ALS the need to have options available to them in a short amount of time. Having Medicare cover costs of seat elevation equipment for power wheelchairs is a tangible way to remove a barrier for individuals to access equipment they need that they may not have needed the week before. This helps caregivers access items more quickly and affordably, in turn helping a person living with ALS live more comfortably and independently than before.

Life is precious. Time together with loved ones is precious. And those living with ALS cannot say with certainty how long they will live with the disease. Medicare coverage of seat elevation in power wheelchairs is important to me, because I wish my friend could have felt more fresh air, had more conversations "eye to eye" and had the opportunity to demonstrate the autonomy they had in that moment to function how they wanted, when they wanted. And seat elevation could have

<p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>provided that. Please, please help to remove additional financial strain, emotional stress, and barriers for caregivers and people living with ALS. Approve the Medicare coverage of seat elevation equipment for power wheelchairs. Thank you.</p> <p>2/23/2023</p>
<p><i>Wave Waiting Period For Als Patients Marlene Schwotzer</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>My husband had ALS for 7 years. We took care of him all that time. He was 63 and weighted 211. I know from experience how much that would help making a patient comfortable and also help prevent bed sores. It would be a great help for the caregiver.</p> <p>2/23/2023</p>
<p><i>Mr. Thomas Farrell</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>It is about time, the VA has allowed this for years!!!!!!!!!!!!!!</p> <p>2/23/2023</p>
<p><i>Myron Behrendt</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>ALS patients need whatever is possible to help them through.</p> <p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Johnna Ruditz</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>I am a former caregiver for my husband, who passed away from ALS in 2003. After 20 years, some things that are helpful to the patient, as well as the family are finally coming to fruition.</p> <p>I feel any medical durable device for ALS patients that provides varying amounts of vertical seat to floor height is a good thing. It does not change the seated angles or the seat's angle relative to the ground, but will offer a means to provide more mobility for the patient.</p> <p>As far as my experience goes, anything that can help prolong, and enable more mobility during the duration of this horrific disease, gets a thumbs up from me.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Johnna Ruditz</p> <p>2/22/2023</p>

Henry Eizenga

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	The absurdity of a 98 lb woman trying to maneuver a 170 lb patient, who totally paralyzed, from a hospital bed to a wheelchair, and back again is beyond comprehension! This is the saga of my son, who, at the age of 48, was diagnosed with ALS, with no history of this disease in his ancestry.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

John Shaughnessy

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	I wish we had this when my wife was alive! I was her caregiver and certainly would have helped her! Thank you for Your support!
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Judy Salkovitz

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Our family LOST three people to ALS [a father + 2 sons] & this was before the 'ice bucket' wager that alerted the entire USA to a devastating disease. ANY product that can assist an ALS patient (along w/their caretakers) can only be a blessing...and should not be a 'consideration'. Thank you, Judy Salkovitz, Haverhill MA
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023

Mrs. Teri Chandler

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Please fund ALS for anything that would make a person more comfortable. My father passed away in 2016 from this awful disease. In memory of my father Richard B Chandler.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Gerri Lynn Zschetzsche

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	It is so difficult to lose your ability to get around for ALS patients. Anything that can help them with mobility is a huge plus and improves their quality of life.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

William Bonney

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	I have ALS and use a power wheelchair. I use seat elevation to help me stand and transfer. It's very important.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Mary Ryan

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	I have great difficulty when trying to cook my meals it is hard to reach the stove also pantry items and as a result I am losing weight. The elevation would really help me prepare my meals much easier. Thank You!
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Mr. Michael Andress</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>Seat elevation is essential to me and my caregivers. I am able to stand to accomplish transfers by elevating the seat and pulling up with a grab bar. Additionally the seat elevation allows me to remove things from cabinets I could not normally reach without seat elevation. I am able to wash my hands, brush my teeth and shave over a sink with seat elevation.</p> <p>Seat elevation makes it so much easier to assist with changing my clothes. I am able to elevate the seat thereby reducing their having to bend over to assist with clothing me or sit on the floor to put my shoes on.</p> <p>The seat elevation is a must have for both ALS patients and caregivers!</p>
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Bev Gulbrandson</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>My husband was diagnosed with ALS September of 2019 and passed away January 2020.</p> <p>He never needed the chair, however Minnesota is fabulous and supplying the patient with all needs of an ALS patients.</p> <p>The chair lift is needed by the caretaker, and especially the patient.</p>
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Lucyna Dziedzic</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>My husband died of ALS in 2020. In addition to dealing with the illness in the middle of pandemic, our family dealt with costs of horrendous medical devices costs. Seat elevation is medically necessary for a person with ALS. Please just visit someone who is sick of ALS.</p>
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023
<i>Ms. Char Panek</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>ALS is genetic in my family. There is a 50% chance that myself, my siblings, and many of my cousins will pass away before age 55 from this disease. My mother developed ALS at the age of 38, just when her life was beginning. She was the first of her siblings to get ALS, but not the last. I was only 8 but one of my responsibilities when she was sick was to assist her in moving from her chair to the toilet. I still remember the day that she lost the ability to lift herself from the toilet to stand. I remember the tears, the screaming, the panic attack she had at realizing</p>

Date Submitted

just how fast her disease was progressing. We had to spend our own money purchasing a new toilet that was taller because we didnt have access to assistance devices like a power chair with elevation to move her. It eventually became my dads job to help her use the bathroom as I wasn't strong enough to lift her. Supporting the decision to include elevation devices on power chairs with Medicare means less trauma, less panic attacks, less pain, less tears, and less stress for ALS patients who are desperate to maintain even an ounce of independence.

2/22/2023

Ms. Terri Stoecker

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

My husband lost his battle with ALS on 10/7/10.
It was an extremely painful journey seeing him slowly disappear losing all function.
He was a brilliant man, commercial airline captain, and a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend.
Any help, for those that fight this disease, should be given as once diagnosed it is a death sentence. The end of life caused by not being able to breathe, swallow, speak,etc.
In my husbands case the disease quickly traveled to his brain, taking him away from us mentally.
Many other diseases have medications etc. That offer a chance to live.
ALS DOES NOT.
I was grateful for the support of the ALS Association during his illness. They offered support for patient and family.
Terri Stoecker
Tinker@yahoo.com

Date Submitted

2/24/2023

Laurene Walker

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

By enacting this procedure for ALS folks, it will make their life easier.

Date Submitted

2/23/2023

Ms. Mary Lynn

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

This is a very disabling disease that is very expensive even when covered by insurance. And as insurance companies change their payouts the economic struggles of ALS patients becomes even more difficult and challenging. Income care, assisted living, and nursing home care runs between 5 and 10,000 a month and most of us don't have that. Please allow us to be as independent for as long as we can by covering the lift in wheelchairs so that we can continue to try and care for ourselves and void huge debt that cannot be covered by those with ALS. Home alterations can provide some aid but it's very limited and of

<i>Date Submitted</i>	course very costly. Please give us quality of life. Thank you Mary Lynn Larson, ALS patient 2/24/2023
	<i>Mrs. Candy Kaloger</i>
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My husband recently passed from ALS after a diagnosis 20 years ago. the seat elevator was so useful to reposition him so he could get food from a buffet, sit at a table, get into a wheelchair van without bumping his head, make it easier for caregivers to care for him, give him independence, which he lost mostly in these last few years. it is important to get this feature early in the disease progression.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023
	<i>Deborah Zuehlk</i>
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	When my dad had ALS over 20 years ago, in order to get him out of his chair or a wheelchair, we had to wrap our arm around him under his armpits and help him up. It was not easy for any of us. A chair lift would have been a godsend to save our backs.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
	<i>Ms. Pat Poulos</i>
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Definitely needed
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
	<i>Adam McQuiston</i>
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My father could not have left the house without seat elevation equipment in our van. This is so important for the quality of life for both the patient and the caregivers. Please make this coverage available! Thank you - Adam McQuiston
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023
	<i>Anne Murphy</i>
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My husband, recently retired Anesthesiologist, had ALS , diagnosed 6/23/20 & passed away 8/18/21. He was completely paralyzed from the neck down by 10/1/20. Without the elevated seat, it would have been next to impossible to transfer him. As it was it took 3 people to transfer him for bathroom, bathing & feeding needs. A horrific disease.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
	<i>Sarah Turner</i>

<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>Seat elevation for ALS patients is very important. It adds quality of life by allowing the patient to converse, eye-to-eye, with friends, family, caregivers and medical providers. It returns dignity to the patient when they no longer need to have others awkwardly bend down to speak in social and medical settings. It also helps caregivers with physical limitations by relieving them of the necessity to bend down to interact with the patient.</p> <p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Mrs. Ellen Masters Massa</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>Living with and taking care of a person living with ALS is a monumental task, even when that care is given with love. When the time comes that a power wheelchair is needed, it is imperative that one of the features be seat elevation. Being able to raise the seat is important in several ways. For starters, it allows the individual the freedom to reach for something that is slightly higher, like the shirt or book from a shelf. It also allows a person to SAFELY navigate the crowds on a sidewalk or a large gathering of people more easily. People don't always see a wheelchair or the person in the chair. Folks can be totally unaware of their surroundings, especially if they are in a hurry or looking too far ahead. They literally don't see what's in front or along side of them, especially if the person or object is below their line of site. Raising the seat not only makes the individual more visible, but that person is better able to see what is ahead of him/her as well, especially in a crowded place. The seat elevation feature also allows the individual to feel a part of a conversation, be it with a group or with another individual. It's essential to make eye contact and to be able to hear what someone is saying, and just as importantly, have them hear you. Power wheelchairs and seat elevation ultimately allow someone living with ALS to extend their independence and most importantly, remain safe.</p> <p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Gilbert Perez</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>Anything that gives more access is a big help</p> <p>2/24/2023</p>
<p><i>William McCarthy</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p>	<p>My wife Laurena lived with ALS for 3 years. Watching this disease take away everything piece by piece that made life worth living was the hardest thing ill ever have to endure. Laurenas only freedom was her ability to navigate her wheelchair. It was her only comfort. Anything we can do for these poor souls suffering is our responsibility as humans. Any less is inhumane. Please dont put limits on providing</p>

<i>Date Submitted</i>	compassionate care. This could easily be you or a family member. Trust me i know 2/22/2023
<i>Terry Vernon</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	A elevated power w/c would help improve my husbands ability to sit at the kitchen counter to have his meals and to get closer to the bathroom sink for his toiletries. It will help him reach things without asking for help. He needs to feel as much independence as possible because those days will soon disappear.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Rebecca Aspengren</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	I recently lost my dear friend from FYD...I wayched while she and her family suffered every day..any added help that these patients receive will be a godsend in a very difficult world..It is the right thing to do..thank you
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Ms. Alexandra Pierzynski</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Seat elevation in power wheelchairs would help people living with ALS to complete activities of daily living. This is essential to their ever day care and would make a difference in the lives of those living with ALS and their caregivers.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Olivia Fite</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	This is the very least you can do. Please support covering the cost of seat elevation equipment for power wheelchairs. This is an important step in supporting our beloveds who have ALS and their caregivers.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/24/2023
<i>Melissa Enfinger</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	I am person living with a condition that has me using a power wheelchair. I am so thankful for the seat elevation system. It has improved my quality of life. It has made it easier to continue functioning independently. I am able to reach things that are high. I am able to elevate to see over obstacles that are in my way. It allows me to see eye to eye with others when having conversations. My wife is my caregiver and it has made a huge difference for her. I am able to raise the seat for her to feed me and give medicine through my feeding tube. I am also able to elevate to get in and out of the seat with her assistance. This has kept her from hurting herself while doing these

<i>Date Submitted</i>	<p>task necessary for my healthcare. Having the elevating seat on my power chair is important to me because has made a huge difference in my quality of life and provided me more independence. It has also been important and necessary to keep my caregiver safe and make it easier for her to give a better quality of care to me.</p> <p>2/25/2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Mr. Vincent Carton</i></p>
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>This is a much needed thing to us who eat from different heights and easier to see something as easy for most people to watch television. Lots of us can not raise head and hold upright for long periods. and it gives more Independence to at least brush teeth and maybe shave. Thank you for your time and efforts in this.</p>
<i>Date Submitted</i>	<p>2/22/2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Katharine Stilley</i></p>
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>My brother Tucker Stilley lived an incredibly productive and vibrant life for 17 years with ALS. His power wheelchair made all the difference to him and to our family and friends who all helped care for him. It was so important to him personally that it was even his artistic muse many, many times.</p> <p>To not give ALS patients access to the best, most versatile assistive technology possible is downright CRUEL.</p>
<i>Date Submitted</i>	<p>2/22/2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Mrs. Sharon Barney-Casey</i></p>
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>Its just a matter of common sense. If someone is losing muscle control anything that can help them get into and out of a wheelchair is a no brainer.</p>
<i>Date Submitted</i>	<p>2/24/2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Ms. Polly Anna Randol</i></p>
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>My husband died from ALS in 2008 but I have clear memories of how essential his wheelchair elevation was. It was the one essential feature not covered by Medicare. Thankfully a donation from another source paid for it but not everyone is fortunate enough to have other payment options. The lift feature helped when I had to transfer him from the wheelchair to the bed or to a recliner, helped position him to be able to eat successfully, helped when I or aides had to exercise his limbs, helped position him for daily bathing and dental care. So, so many daily needs were made possible by having that lift feature. I sincerely hope Medicare</p>

<i>Date Submitted</i>	will cover this feature for those suffering from ALS and for the caregivers tasked to care for them. 2/23/2023
	<i>Carlos Mateus</i>
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	I'm a caregiver for my wife and we both see seat elevation is a key mechanism for continued accessibility. There are several smaller tasks, such as cooking or preparing, that are not feasible at the usual wheelchair height. In fact, cooking is not safe if the seat is not elevated. As ALS progress, patient will have limitation on raising arms and seat elevation can keep them independent on sinks and low cabinets, such as bathroom ones. Seat elevation can also provide an adequate height for transferring the patient to a bed, making it easier to adapt the home to the patient. The longer the patient can keep independence, the more dignity can be preserved. The longer the patient is independent, the easier for caregivers, who can keep working and paying medicare/insurance.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
	<i>Rohit Kumar</i>
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Seat elevation is critical to proper caregiving and comfort of patients.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
	<i>Charles Puckett</i>
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	I know how hard it is for patient & care giver for a family dealing with ALS. I lost my wife nov. 26. 2012 to ALS.after 48 years of marriage. I know any thing that would help would be a blessing for these family's.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
	<i>Rebecca Taylor-Negus</i>
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My best friend's mother was diagnosed with ALS. It was heartbreaking to see her deterioration over what seemed to be a very short time. Anything that can be done to help and comfort those individuals to manage this terrible disease is extremely important.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
	<i>Terry Baumgardner</i>
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	We need to do all we can to those with ALS and seat elevation would definitely be a huge help to them and especially to their caregivers.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Stacy Cibulka

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>My father in law and husband both died from ALS. My mother in law took care of my father in law until the end in there home. She struggled to lift a man that was 62 and 200 pounds to get him into a wheelchair. It took a toll on her. My husband died January 29, 2016. I to took care of my husband until the end. He died at home. We tried repeatedly to get help to get him a power wheelchair and a lift bed. He used a walker to get to the bathroom and come back. At the end his legs were giving out and we bought him a portable urinal. We struggled to get him to the toilet for a BM. No one realized the pain these people go through. Having to give up there independence, and having to rely on others. Things you take for granted. The chair would at least give them the capability to move around more. Go outside instead of looking out a window. For fear they will fall. My husband at the end told me thats what he missed the most was his independence. He was to the point of not wanted to live anymore. I had to get rid of the Huns in the house for fear he would take his own life. The chair would have given him some of that back.</p>
<i>Date Submitted</i>	<p>2/22/2023</p>

Lisa Gaylog

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>Seat elevation is a game changer for anyone that is in a power wheelchair. It gives us greater independence in the ability to perform everyday tasks. Imagine being able to reach into a cabinet without having to ask for assistance. Better yet, how about being able to safely cook on the stove.</p> <p>Transfers can be made safely when moving from the bed into the chair. Being able to reach clothes easily in the closet is another asset. All of these things also give our caregivers a break.</p> <p>It's time seat elevation be considered as a basic need for anyone that is in a wheelchair. It allows me to retain my independence and dignity in my everyday tasks.</p>
<i>Date Submitted</i>	<p>2/22/2023</p>

Mary Connolly

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>I am an ALS patient on Medicare with both lower and upper extremity weakness that continues to increase. Getting out of a seated position from chairs, scooters etc. is extremely difficult if my hips are not above my knees. Unfortunately, a power wheelchair is in my near future and having the seat elevation option will be paramount to my being able to access and exit the wheelchair as well as to my safety and the safety of my caregiver while doing so. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
<i>Date Submitted</i>	<p>2/22/2023</p>

Scott Christensen

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>Lisa was a beautiful, vibrant healthy, active middle aged woman. She started noticing weakness when trying to stand from a squatted position. Difficulty jumping, pain in her back and left leg..after back surgery and rehabilitation making it even worse. She was diagnosed with ALS . June 12, 2019. The devastating news was met with a powerful positive attitude and no fear of the what would come next!! Death was her only out from the pain of becoming paralyzed a little at a time until she was unable to breathe because her diaphragm muscles no longer responded to the nerve signals to keep her filled with oxygen. Death in 2 years and 9 days from diagnosis to death</p> <p>She left behind a beautiful family. Her loving and devoted husband of 30 years, 2 children 4 grandchildren.</p> <p>The financial costs of this disease can be assisted and the burden lightened by the decision YOU make to aid with cost such as height assessment. To have a motorized wheelchair that brings it's bearer to a comfortable level to communicate with others and feel included in their own life.</p> <p>Be kind and compassionate and help these amazing families deal with this devastation as much wife did with class grace and style far beyond the bounds of this physical sphere.</p>
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Michael Dally

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>My wife has ALS - having seat elevation is critical to her ability to remain mobile and do things for herself. It helps her sense of independence and her mental health tremendously!</p>
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Diane Shumway

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>My husband had a wheelchair that allowed him to stand once being properly strapped in. He loved it to let the blood flow throughout his body and give pressure points relief. He was able to drive it around standing up, first one around in our area. Heads were spinning when people saw him</p>
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Mrs. Lisa Hanley

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>I support the ALS Association and support this Medicare proposal. My mother-in-law died of ALS over 10 years ago. Each time there is an improvement in research, medication, support for anyone suffering with ALS, I am very thankful. L. Hanley</p>
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/24/2023

Dennis Del Grosso

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	If you doubt how necessary these are, simply try getting out of a chair WITHOUT using your hands, arms, or legs. Can't be done! Then try having your spouse or partner help. Unless they are a serious weight lifter, they will struggle mightily, IF they can dead-lift you at all. Now you will understand.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Mrs. Marguerite McGowan

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My late husband had ALS. At the age of 47, he quickly became completely paralyzed and dependent on his power wheelchair. We were fortunate enough to have the support of the VA. We received a chair with both tilt and seat elevation. The tilt feature is not an option with ALS. In the case of my husband, it was necessary for his ease in breathing. The seat elevation allowed him to speak to people at eye level. It saved my back when I was shaving him. Before complete paralysis, the seat elevation aided in transfers. This coverage by Medicare is important to me because I know how much seat elevation improved our very difficult life. After my husband's death, I returned to school and earned a Master's degree in Social Work so that I could work with ALS patients. It breaks my heart to see a family have to suffer because the correct equipment is denied by Medicare.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Mark Alf

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	I am a caregiver for my wife, who has ALS. Having the elevate feature has been so helpful to all of our lives. It allows much easier transfers, allows being able to reach things higher than without. It opens up seating selection at restaurants, as a lot of restaurants have very limited accessible seats. It also helps when interacting with people, as the user can elevate to roughly eye level and not have to be looked down to all the time. We can not imagine living without this feature.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Mark Wagner

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My Mother died from complications of ALS and I took her to the Dr. and support group meetings, so Ive seen many people struggle with physical maneuvering in traditional chairs. Lifts would greatly increase safety, comfort and agility.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Jourdan Milliard

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>My patients progressively lose their independence as their disease advances. They have to rely on others for simple tasks of feeding and bathing. Having a seat elevator gives them the ability to have one aspect of independence whether it's to reach up to a cabinet or transfer safely to a toilet. Seat elevators are a necessary feature to their chairs and most patients with ALS spend the majority of their time living in these mobility devices. I can't even imagine how it would feel to be stripped of your function and independence. You have the ability to help improve their quality of life with this decision.</p>
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Ana Arroyo</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>I am a person living with ALS and I need a power wheelchair. but I don't have the necessary money to pay the co-payment, which is 4,500 dollars, for me at this moment it is impossible to make that payment and I really need the chair to have greater mobility and a better quality of life since I cannot leave the house without help and my legs are not working well, I have suffered multiple falls</p>
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/28/2023
<i>Heather Arroyo</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>My brother in law has ALS and has been wheelchair confined for several yrs. He is 6 foot 4. My sister, his primary caregiver, is 5 foot 2. Seat elevation would assist her in caring for him and him in adjusting himself. My sister strained her back caring for Marc and had to have physical therapy. That means finding and paying someone to care for him while she is out for treatment. Life with ALS is incredibly difficult for patients and families as the afflicted can not do much for themselves. Every possible thing that can assist provides the patient with some amount of independence and a little respite for caregivers. Please don't underestimate the importance of seat elevation and pass this rule. Thank you.</p>
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023
<i>Ms. Sara Hoten</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>People w/ALS NEED seat elevators for their power wheelchairs. Having this covered by insurance would be a game changer for so many individuals and reduce a huge financial burden for families and organizations that are assisting these families. Seat elevators are a necessity for people with ALS and reduce the risk during transfers for the individual AND their caregiver, (among other things). Please provide this coverage for the individuals I work with on a daily basis.</p>
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023

Joanne Gerlach

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My brother died of his ALS 5/22/22, I was all he had. I was his caregiver, & trustee, so I am still dealing with the estate as trustee & all of the work involved to provide info. to the attorneys paralegal to complete forms for estate closure. Thank God for the ALS Assn., they take care of those afflicted & their families after your loved one has passed. But nowadays so many people are diagnosed with this deadly disease that the government/ Medicare must do more in paying for necessary equipment to help the afflicted & the caregivers. The entire process from diagnosis to death is a nightmare for the afflicted & caretakers, relatives. It is the worst disease I have witnessed anyone succumbing from. The average lifespan from diagnosis to death is 3 1/2 yrs. The cost of equipment, care, caretakers is prohibitive, along with the emotional component ongoing & the aftermath. With all of the taxes paid & wasted by the govt. in this country can we please use some to help those suffering from ALS, & make them more comfortable, as well as helping those caring for them
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Juergen bergk

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	There are many situations where an elevated chair would help tremendously in the house getting elevated to get things from the pantry or to the countertops and the store to be able to reach products on shelves.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Ms. Rebecca Moore

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My name is Rebecca Moore and my brother-in-law is living with ALS. He uses a power wheelchair frequently as his legs will not allow him to walk very much any more. Having seat elevation included in his chair will enable his ability to communicate better. Currently his speech is very slurred. People have to crouch down to his level to which creates an unnatural speaking dynamic. Being at eye level will be a big help. Additionally, his primary care giver, and the rest of us in the family, are aging. Having a means to elevate him in his chair will make taking care of his feeding tube (which he needs for nutrition), brushing his teeth and other daily hygiene tasks will be much, much easier. Full time complete caregiving is exhausting enough. This will be a god send. Thank you so much for proposing this change to Medicare! We appreciate all the support we can get to have this be approved.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Jolene Todd

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Seat elevation is not a luxury for those living with ALS, it is a quality of life that allows a person living with ALS more independence. Seat
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elevation assists people living with ALS to reach countertops, sit comfortably at tables, get into a position to be able to get to a standing position with less assistance from a caregiver, when using a sit to stand machine it allows the person living with ALS to be in a better position. There are so many benefits to the seat elevation for a persons quality of life when battling this disease. Thank you for making this a reality, and one less battle to fight for families.

Date Submitted 2/24/2023

Denise McQuillin

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

Being able to raise myself up would enable me to do many of the things I cant do now and make my life a little more livable. I find many things are out of reach for me since I am not able to walk or stand. The simple tasks such as getting clothes out of my closet, helping prepare meals, transferring myself into bed would all be a lot easier. Now I depend on my caregiver to do a lot of things that I could do for myself.

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Mrs. Colette Stoehrmann

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

ALS is such a debilitating disease that eventually leaves the patient dependent on others for every detail of living. Any assistance they can receive through insurance is one less worry for them. I encourage you to add this to coverage.

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

George Hale

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

Its the right thing to do.
Spend on this to improve quality of life please

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Ms. Shannon Todd

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

I have had the privilege to work with the ALS community for 13 years. Seat elevation in power wheelchairs is so important first in giving a person living with ALS more independence and ability to get more to eye level with conversations and to access environment but also for caregivers. If the person with ALS remains more independent this also frees time for the caregiver. The other large importance is for transfers as it is much easier to transfer someone in a wheelchair from a higher position down or a level transfer, rather than working to move someone from a lower level to a higher position.

Date Submitted 2/27/2023

Kent Thompson

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Having helped my brother through ALS, it was very demeaning to my brother how much help he needed. I remember well when he could no longer get into or out of a wheelchair. He struggled so hard for a long time - just wasn't going to give up. There was nothing he could do. Allowing him the ability to get in and out of a wheelchair or any chair would have been temporary and very humane.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Sherry Cook

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Seat elevation made my life so much easier when my husband could not walk. He was able to lift the seat and scoot to the side and get into bed without me having to lift him. If saved my life
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Lorraine Filone

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	i have known two young men with this sickness both having a wife and children. it is a slow death both physically and mentally for all concerned. any aid that is helpful should be afforded to the sick person and their families. it is heartbreaking and effects all.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023

Paul Gustafson

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	A family member of mine was diagnosed with ALS five years ago, and recently became unable to get out of her wheelchair. She and her husband were unable to afford the seat elevation option for her wheelchair, which has been a significant negative impact on her quality of life. Being able to elevate (she was able to try out a chair with this option) would be life-changing for her and have a powerful positive impact on her quality of life. I sincerely hope this proposal is approved.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Gary Shipp

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Seat elevation is a critical component of high-quality supports for a person living with ALS. There is no known cause or cure for ALS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	By covering the cost of seat elevation for power wheelchairs, Medicare would be unlocking a higher-degree of quality of life for thousands of individuals while helping to minimize the physical and financial burdens associated with the disease. I urge support for this. 2/28/2023

Ms. Daliah Saper

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My father just passed away from this miserable, horrific, unfair disease on Saturday. He was a prisoner in his body, and of course, in his wheelchair. Any additional mobility/ elevation in a chair would make a mountain of difference to the PALS and their caregivers. Financial constraints shouldn't prevent a PALS from having this additional help.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023

Barbara Forster

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Long over due.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Richard Wilhide

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	I enjoy cooking. My wife and I take cooking classes when we go on vacation across the country. I cook 90 percent of our meals. Unfortunately, I have fallen 5 times in the kitchen standing at the counter preparing meals. I have a power wheelchair and elevating would help mitigate this risk.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Diane Samuels

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My mother-in-law had ALS and has been gone for about 7 years. Had she had seat elevation on her wheelchair, it would have made her life and those caregivers around her so much easier. Her quality of life would have been better I hope and pray this gets approved to help those now. D. Samuels
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Sue Trudeau

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Anything we can do to help those suffering from ALS would be a blessing!
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Ellen Bradish

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Seat elevation is a very important thing for those with Al's, as it will increase the ability to change their positions and therefore decreasing chances for skin breakdown. It will enable the patient to have a different view of the world around them, which would help their overall mental status. It will also make transfers easier for care givers to make
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	<p>safe transfers. These people deserve this and other assistance. This debilitating disease is a nightmare for the person and its entire family and support system. Whatever it takes to assist in making their lives a little better they should receive. They can not change this cross they were given to live with so any help is greatly appreciated.</p> <p>I am a friend of an ALS person and see the hardships this family is enduring. I try to help when I can. Please help them by passing this.</p> <p>Thank you, Ellen Bradish</p>
<p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Joan Kahle-Berger</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p>	<p>My husband was greatly aided by seat elevation in his power chair</p>
<p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Valerie Schooley</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p>	<p>My brother in law suffers from ALS and it takes both my sister and I to help him out of his chair. Please support this action!</p>
<p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>2/24/2023</p>
<p><i>Bob Scannell</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p>	<p>An ALS patient will likely be confined to their power chair for up to 24 hours a day. There are numerous reasons why seat elevation is important, including safety, self-sufficiency, and quality of life. Self-sufficiency should be given extra consideration. Many household tasks including accessing a microwave, a kitchen cupboard, a closet shelf, are impossible without the seat elevation. With so many other abilities striped from an ALS patient, self-sufficiency should not be one of them, when possible.</p>
<p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Marilyn Anderson</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p>	<p>I am so happy that the seat elevation equipment for power wheelchairs will be covered by Medicare. My husband suffered with ALS and passed away in 2020 due to the complications of this disease. The last year plus of his life he was in his wheelchair from early morning till bedtime. We were lucky and were able to have a wheelchair with seat elevation and tilt abilities. I would add tilt ability to this bill. Elevation and tilt allowed for change of position when a patient is unable to do that for themselves. It made important daily jobs like g-tube feeding much easier for the caregiver and more comfortable for the patient. It allowed for better napping positions and even in the small things like allowing my</p>

<i>Date Submitted</i>	<p>husband to see out of a window better helped to improve his quality of life. This is a must for all ALS patients when they get to the point where they can no longer be mobile for themselves. Elevation and Tilt please!!!</p> <p>2/22/2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Dr. Ellen Pill</i></p>
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>My husband died of ALS and seat elevation for his power wheelchair would have made a world of difference in his quality of life and mobility.</p> <p>2/22/2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Bonnie Waldron</i></p>
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>A power recliner was one of the most helpful tools available when my husband was diagnosed with ALS.</p> <p>An elevated seat in a wheelchair would have been a godsend. Cushions and pillows were not always comfortable nor safe.</p> <p>Its time for additional research into providing comfort to ALS patients as well as their caregivers! I know firsthand that I was NOT in a position to care for my husband in a way that was safe for both of us. His diagnosis was at the onset of COVID. So no clinics. No additional help. I could go on and on.</p> <p>Please continue to provide financial relief for those suffering from ALS as well as tools for caregivers to remain healthy and safe.</p> <p>2/22/2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Blake Polen</i></p>
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>My brother just passed away from ALS on February 11th and his seat elevation equipment for power wheelchairs really helped his quality of life, please cover them.</p> <p>2/22/2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Maryann Gorski</i></p>
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>The elevated seat in the wheel chair was a life saver getting my husband in and out of the hospital bed and the coach. They also feel better when the seat is raised so they are eye level when talking to people. The seat enables them to reach more places like counter tops and cabinets.</p> <p>2/22/2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Mrs. Judy Nail</i></p>

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Anything that could make things easier for the ALS patients and/or caregivers should be automatically approved.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Mr. Ray Sprinkle

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My wife died of ALS. On a standard wheelchair she had trouble reaching many household items, such as the bathroom sink or the kitchen stovetop. Later as her neck muscles became weaker she could not look up at people which was very humiliating to her.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Bob Palucki

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My leg muscles are so weak that I can no longer lift myself up out of my wheelchair to transfer anywhere. My Power wheelchair lift allows me to raise up high enough so I can safely transfer. Without my Power Lift I would have no way of transferring out of my wheelchair. A Power Lift for a person in my condition is a must have!
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Mrs. Kathryn Armstrong

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Th being able to elevate my seat as needed I am able to be a little more independent and not have to depend on my caregiver n one more step of my own self.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023

Darlene Quiel

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	So many people with ALS are in wheelchairs because of this disease. Seat elevation in their wheelchairs can help improve their quality of life and help their caregivers with everyday tasks. I fully support the proposal for Medicare to cover this cost!
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023

Miss Kathleen Severance

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Give them more power to help move easier on their own or with little extra assistance.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/27/2023

Ms. Annette Allen

<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>My husband lost his fight with ALS in 2012, he did have a power wheelchair, and it was a very important piece to have if someone is dealing with ALS,</p> <p>2/23/2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Vikki Hankins</i></p>
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>I lost my 36 year old daughter in 2017. Her three sisters and I took care of her and her three children for three years before ALS took her. I am an advocate for ANYTHING that would make life easier for the caregiver or the loved one dealing with ALS every second. Thank you for this consideration.</p> <p>2/22/2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Mr. John P Bartlomiejczyk</i></p>
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>One of my best friends passed away from ALS 12 years ago. Anything to improve the quality of life would be most welcome for anyone suffering from this horrible disease</p> <p>2/22/2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Elizabeth Branham</i></p>
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>I am a friend to one patient with ALS and a family member to another person with ALS. The disease is horrible to begin with and comes with so many challenges. Mobile challenges come for nearly anyone with a physical disability depending on the circumstances. In my experience with dealing with mobility issues myself, I can tell you first hand that it is so much easier on the patient and on staff and caregivers when you have equipment that can make it easier for them to help get moved from one place to the next, from a chair to bed or chair to restroom. The higher the chair, the less strain on the patients body and the backs of anyone trying to help them up. Unless you've been in a situation where you literally can't do for yourself or have taken care of someone who can't, it's hard to imagine. Please help these patients get all the equipment they need to live their lives.</p> <p>2/22/2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Wendy Dunkel</i></p>
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>It shouldnt even be an option, it should be absolutely covered by Medicare.</p> <p>2/22/2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Kathleen Phillips</i></p>

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

Raising the seat on the power wheelchair is especially important for independence in the kitchen. Counter height, and stove height is higher than most seats and so the user is unable to do normal functions of cooking. A raised seat allows the user to chop or prepare foods on the counter and stir the pot on the stove. Very important for being more independent.

Date Submitted

2/22/2023

Kenneth Ballard

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

Support of seat elevation for ALS patients like myself is a simple yet highly impactful step in making my life with ALS a more livable experience. It will allow me to independently perform simple tasks that otherwise would have to be performed by a care taker. Beyond the obvious functional benefits of extending my independence to perform basic tasks in the kitchen, bathroom and many public spaces (counters, ticket windows, etc), it has a psychological benefit as well. Depression and anxiety often accompany an ALS diagnosis. A big catalyst for that is the fear of lost independence. Any measure to mitigate my loss of independence improves my mental well being. The simple act of being able to elevate and speak to someone face to face, vs them having to crouch down is an empowering experience, helping me feel more "normal" despite my challenges. All of these benefits increase my quality of life AND help avoid other potential costs associated with additional caregiver resources, mental health services/meds and avoidance of potential accidents; where had the elevation function been present, I might not have tried to stand or reach for something.

Simple common sense tells you including elevation functionality for ALS patients in wheelchairs is the right thing to do.

Thank you for your consideration.

Date Submitted

2/23/2023

Mr. Jeff Todd

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

Any improvement to help the person while in a chair is desperately needed.

Date Submitted

2/22/2023

Sharon Russell

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

Seat elevation is essential for persons living with ALS. Seat elevation allowed my husband to get to standing to urinate at the commode, modified independently, for months longer than he could have without seat elevation. This allowed me as his wife to be able to work longer to support us and maintain our health insurance. The seat elevation also

<p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>aided getting him to standing to transfer. This delayed the eventual need for using the hoist lift for transfers. The seat elevation also aided in raising his height so that he could see out the windows easier, which is very important when a person becomes essentially housebound.</p> <p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Janey Allen</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>The ability to have a face to face conversation with another individual is another way that we can meet those with ALS in the way in which they choose. Imagine the ability to engage with a room full of people and gain access to the conversations by not interrupting but joining into the conversation as if you were also standing.</p> <p>2/27/2023</p>
<p><i>Tara Barnes</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>My courageous and dear late brother only hoped for a better future for others. Please continue in supporting passage of the legislation</p> <p>2/23/2023</p>
<p><i>Erin Ryan</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>The expenses for this disease are crippling. We need to offer as much support as possible. These changes and issues matter to everyone in the ALS community. It doesn't just affect those who have ALS but all family members involved. Every dollar raised, every event or outreach opportunity, every effort matters, is needed and counts. Seat elevation coverage is needed.</p> <p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>John Sprague</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>Can not drive if you can not get in.</p> <p>2/23/2023</p>
<p><i>Rebecca Adams</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>Any assisted aid that helps both patient and caregiver would be greatly appreciated.</p> <p>2/23/2023</p>
<p><i>Sandy Greggs</i></p>	

<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>Im a person living with ALS and the last time I purchased a wheelchair I had to pay for the seat elevation out of pocket. Its a big bonus because now Im able to get into my freezer, get clothes out of closet, get mail out of mailbox. These are just a few things that the elevated seat allows me to do. The actual list goes on and on. Plus theres the psychological benefit of seeing another person eye to eye. Theres nothing more demoralizing than looking at someones waist, knees or buttocks deployed on how low your chair is. All of us with ALS would be more than grateful to get this passed. Thank you so much.</p> <p>Gratefully, Sandra Greggs</p> <p>2/22/2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Mr. Mark Friedman</i></p>
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>Please help to improve the quality of life for people living with ALS by ensuring that people who are afflicted with this disease get seat elevation in power wheelchairs to help with their mobility.</p> <p>2/22/2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Mr. Scott Furman</i></p>
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>This is very important for people living with ALS. Please support this worthy cause.</p> <p>2/22/2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Ms. Elda McLaughlin</i></p>
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>Seat elevation will allow me to better live independently. I can be at eye level, cook without my body becoming tired and finally able to reach. I am thankful for Medicare but this would be amazing</p> <p>2/22/2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Mrs. Sue Mcmanemy</i></p>
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>Get it done.</p> <p>2/26/2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Ashlee Crouch</i></p>
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p>	<p>I have ALS and may need help in the future pretty much everything as do many people living with this disease. Caregivers and people with ALS could benefit so so much from seat elevation and prevent issues due to prolonged sitting in same position. Any help is a ton of help. Would be awesome.</p>

Date Submitted | 2/22/2023

Mrs. Tammy Piercd

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	This would have been extremely Helpful. For example a lot less bending over to help with daily things, like transfer from chair to bed or bath. Having my mother with ALS feel apart of everything going on at eye level. She at one point was unable to look up and with the Seat elevation she would not have to. This would be a benefit for her. But more importantly the necessity would definitely be helping move her from chair to bed and bath because they are dead weight. Thank you for considering the elevated seat this would mean a lot to those that are caring for a love one with ALS.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023

Mr. Ron Matusiak

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	needed moble chair
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Stephanie Evans

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Seat elevation in power wheelchairs is just simply an essential need and we are elated that Medicare will potentially cover the cost. Thank you.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Julie and Mike Nomura

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My wife was diagnosed with ALS over 2 years ago. Her power wheelchair is an essential part of her daily life, the ability to raise and lower her chair tremendously helps her get into and out of bed, in and out of the couch and in and out of the toilet, please consider Medicare to cover this product Thank you, Mike Nomura
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Audrey Lenz

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My Mother, with ALS, used a loaner PWC with seat elevation. This function of her chair gave her access to items, like dishes and countertops, which were out of reach normally. It also was necessary in order for me to wash her hair by getting her over the sink, that really saved her back from extra painful bending. This function of the chair allowed her fuller access to her home and that improved her mood.
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Date Submitted | 2/25/2023

Jennifer Beatty

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	A chair lift would have helped my Dad tremendously as he cared for my mother each day. Please cover the cost of seat elevation. Thank you!
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Elva Davis

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Anything that would help a person with ALS be more comfortable should be considered for Medicare help.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Copeland West

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	As someone who has been in the healthcare field and surrounded by this disease within my immediate family for nearly a decade, the every day battle that patients and family members experience is unimaginable for most individuals who haven't been touched by it. Any modality of care or treatment that can be of aid to these patients and their loved ones should be easily available to all that are afflicted. ALS is one of the few diseases that lacks one thing that most other diseases do not at this point in time. Hope. These patients and their families deserve better from us as it pertains to the development of new treatments and the expedition of those treatments, as well as, any source of support that can be provided in everyday life for someone suffering from this relentlessly debilitating disease.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Courtney Mish

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>ALS robs a person of their bodily functions, usually slowly and one at a time. Please take the time to imagine this happening to your child, your parent, your spouse, and yourself. Imagine relying on a spouse, parent, child, or stranger (if you can afford to hire one) to help you on and off the toilet - one of your most intimate, personal daily needs.</p> <p>When my father's ALS caused him to need assistance in the bathroom, he was absolutely adamant about not letting his adult children help him. This put so much strain, both emotional and physical, on my 70 year old mother. My siblings and I were left to helplessly let them struggle to get him on and off the toilet. As if being diagnosed with a terminal disease is not enough, my father's sense of independence, dignity, and pride were slowly crushed.</p> <p>Access to seat elevation equipment would have been a game changer.</p>
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<p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>Quality of life for my father would have skyrocketed for his last few months. He would have been able to maintain his independence longer. My mother would not have to physically suffer with transfers. My father would not have felt like a burden.</p> <p>ALS is a cruel disease. People living with it need access equipment that allows them to complete activities of daily living safely for as long as possible.</p> <p>-Courtney M 2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Mr. Lee Cravens</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>I was a caretaker for my wife who passed away from ALS. The last year of her life she could not move from her neck down. At that point being safe mobile is paramount. Anything that can make lives safer and easier is essential for ALS patients.</p> <p>Thank you Lee Cravens 2/23/2023</p>
<p><i>Terri Laughlin</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>I have a friend who was diagnosed with ALS 2 years ago. So far, he's doing well, but we all know what the future is bringing. Any bit of help his family could get to care for him as his condition worsens would be beneficial. I see absolutely no reason to not cover seat elevation as it would be a huge help to all involved.</p> <p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Steven Wicks</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>Medicare covering seat elevation is important as living with this disease is extremely expensive. Also everything that can be done to make ALS patients difficult life just a little easier is the right thing for Medicare to do.</p> <p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Joshua Rogers</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p>	<p>We lost my father-in-law to this horrific disease a year ago next month. His life depended on the equipment he used every day and having a power chair with seat elevation would have made his life just a little bit easier. This disease takes everything from those it impacts. The small victories are the only thing patients and caretakers have left when this disease takes hold. Powerchairs with seat elevation are one of those seemingly small victories that mean so much to the people devastated by</p>

<i>Date Submitted</i>	ALS. By covering this necessary equipment, you have given people one more small victory, and with this disease, that's all we have left. 2/22/2023
<i>Anna Allen</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	This illness is arguably one of the most devastating illnesses in existence today. It is a diagnosis without hope where every day gets worse. ANYTHING we can do to help, we should.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Rachel Schuster</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My neighbor was diagnosed with ALS and is in his early thirties. His use of a power chair helps him maintain some level of independence and normality in such tough times. They have three young girls of the ages 2, 5 and 7. As a care giver, it can be challenging for her to take care of all four family members. The power chair allows him to move indoor and outdoor with little assistance.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Mr. Jonathan "Brett" Everhart</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	I have a good friend whose dad died of ALS at 51. The wheel chair sat too low for him resulting in difficulty when he or then Melissa had to move him. Based on this experience I got involved doing photography for the ALS walks both in Denver and Fort Collins, Colorado. There were many there that could've benefited from the elevated chair. A very good idea to provide access to the community, it's one that has my heartfelt care.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/24/2023
<i>Sharon Haughey</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	I am a person living with ALS. While I do not yet need a wheelchair, if and when I do it would be crucial to have the expense covered. Those who have the need now are likely in need of financial assistance for equipment to make quality of life better.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/24/2023
<i>Mandy Rice</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Medicare coverage of costs of seat elevation equipment for power wheelchairs would be a game changer for my dear friend living with ALS. His dear family who act as caregivers would greatly benefit as well. This is important to me as I do everything I can to support my friends.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Domingo Banderas

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	people living with ALS? like me depends on seat elevation equipment for power wheelchairs! please Medicare: cover what my plan thank you
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023

Bobbie Dreher

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	This seat Elevation matters. One we lose muscle and nerves in our butts. laughs. Also unable to real or get out of a seat to . legs and arms some have no feeling at all . Even little things make big differences for our lives with ALS. it is the Humane thing to do . No one understands what someone with ALs goes through or the family . It would help the care taker with the person with ALS and also the person with ALs. Just to know our government cares makes a big difference in the little hope most have with this Dise. My family is hereditary ALs. My grandfather died from it and was in wheel chair and my father to . Now i have this ALS to and my kids and grand kids have 50 percent chance of getting it. Most ALS is paradic anyone can get. 10 percent is herediary like i have. Thank you . Bobbie Dreher Arizona Chapter
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Lana Bromiley

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My husband is 46 and was diagnosed with ALS almost two years ago. He's 6' 3" and always had amazing posture and a recognizable stance and walk. As ALS has taken away his ability to stand up tall, or even stand for more than a minute, he's felt depressed as he's left out of the physical huddles that naturally occur in group conversations. Having the ability to sit comfortably and be at eye level again, would boost his mood, allow him to reach the kitchen appliances and counters again, and give him some sense of feeling like he used to. As a caregiver with four kids, it is challenging to have his meals and needs all prepped before I leave the house, since he can't reach the things he needs. A chair elevator would alleviate much of that. ALS is a disease that causes financial ruin for many. Not having the out of pocket expense for the elevator would be incredibly helpful to us and everyone.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Anna Valdez

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My sister Pat when diagnosed with ALS was working in at Iowa State University. Pat ran the lectures committee with students, helping to facilitate bringing in national speakers from all areas to expand the students world and connect them to politicians, artists, writers, actors and all walks of life. She worked so hard to stay mobile, a cane, then walker, then scooter
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and finally an electric wheelchair with position change capabilities, height adjustment, ability to recline and elevate feet. All of these positions helped her cope with the failing body. Swelling in feet, fatigue of head motion, arm rests moveable for arm weakness, raise the whole chair up to table, ability to have chair up to give an improved ability to talk to someone as her voice weakened probably a thousand more examples of improved life experience.

I want to implore you to realize how important these chairs are in the quality of everyday -in home or out of the house. The chairs also have the ability to attach assistive devices depending on the stage and needs of the person. The limits of ALS are tragic and the chairs give a slight bit of freedom to feel more normal, prevent additional medical complications and safely live their best life.

Ann Valdez

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Mrs. Theresa Smith

CMS Seat Elevation Comment Seat elevation in power chairs will make transfers so much easier. I had to call for assistance for my husband just to get him out of the chair and into bed. Please approve this addition.

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Amy Watkin

CMS Seat Elevation Comment As I helped support my friend and her father through managing ALS, there were innumerable hoops to jump through just to get the access to basic needs including accessibility devices. We spent so much time doing paperwork, or just trying to decipher the paperwork. It was a huge struggle in terms of both time and brain power, and all of us have advanced degrees! Having to navigate these broken systems, running from one person or organization to the next to figure out how to get coverage for these things was exhausting. It took away the energy and time my friend wanted to have to spend with her father in his last months, weeks, and days. Not to mention the fact that while ALS itself was stealing her father's vibrancy, this broken process was stealing his humanity.

This isn't something that my friend's dad will ever benefit from, but I need it to be available to other people and caregivers trying to salvage a life and existence with this awful disease. In the most earnest plea that I can put forth, please include seat elevation in Medicare coverage. It will lighten an already heavy load for anyone who has to find a way to live with this disease.

Date Submitted 2/23/2023

Stacie Votaw

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	As a human, the elevator gives me the pride and dignity to speak to others at eye level, without having to be looked down upon. As the residents of a nursing home, I am able to attend events and stay in the back of the audience out of the way of others and still easily see the performance. With the seat elevator, I don't just feel tall and proud. I am tall and proud.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Sandra Marusin

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	As a person who has lost 2 uncles, one aunt and one cousin to ALS, I think it's important to improve their shortened lives as much as possible. As a Speech Language Pathologist I know that proper positioning is important for communication to happen, seat elevation could certainly play a role in communication and increase independence. Thanks for your support.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/25/2023

Karen Banks

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My husband Robert Johnson Had ALS disease The wheelchair came in handy for him to get around also when he passed away I Donated his for someone else Thank God that My husband insurance Pay for his I know there Or Some people are not blessed to have that kind of insurance So I was glad it gives it to someone that can use it
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

William Evenhouse

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Out daughter-in-law died two years ago from ALS. Still today, her husband and the two children struggle to regain some financial security after the enormous amounts they spent on equipment and house changes to render her last two years liveable. Any assistance such as financing seat elevation chairs will help others. I include a video link to a song regarding her struggle: Holding On To Love.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Tamara Kinnee

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	This is wonderful news. Seat elevation would allow my husband to have a better quality of life.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Mr. Charles Dyer

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My wife (retired school teacher) and brother (retired Marine who fought in Vietnam) both battled and died with ALS. The seat elevation upgrade helped my wife look into my eyes and those of our children which gave her a sense of joy instead of people looking down on her always. Quality of life is impacted so very much when you are incapable of moving nothing but your eyes. The eyes brome your voice and expression of love.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Mrs. Kimberly Anderson Pravettone</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My mother passed away in 1998 from this horrible disease. I was her care taker. It was very hard on us both physically to move her from place to place, much more taking her places. I did though and dont regret one moment. But, my back has never been the same. I pray you will decide to provide this equipment, their lives are hard enough.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023
<i>Jason Hamman</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Elevated seats in powered wheelchairs would be a game changer for those living with ALS as well the caretakers. Please strongly considering covering the cost!
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/24/2023
<i>Mr. Matt Robertson</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Please consider seat elevation in powered wheelchair coverage. For those of us that have had family and friends die from this disease, having seat elevation helps both the individualy maintain some additional mobility, but also the family and care givers who might not othersie have the physical ability to assist the individual. It is too late now for our family, but those afflicted now, and in the future, will greatly value and appreciate this coverage. If you do not know first hand someone who has fought this fight, call me and I will tell you about my father-in-law's fight, or the 4 others I know first hand.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Judy Henderson</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My daughter was diagnosed with ALS a couple of years ago and I want to make sure she has the necessary tools to help in living with ALS in the future. This seat elevation will help everyone to help her. Please cover the elevation equipment for power wheelchairs.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023

Vincent Fusco

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Seat elevation is very important in several factors for me. First and foremost in using it for getting into and out of my bed. Secondly for yhe use in bathroom needs and in reaching for necessities of every day life especially in the kitchen.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	Thank you 2/22/2023

Courtney Lirette

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My mom recently passed off ALS. During the time we were blessed to have her here, we were lucky enough to have received the seat elevation through a grant, but it made a huge difference. Not only the psychosocial aspects like her being able to look people in the eyes at events, and looking in the bathroom mirror. But also when transferring her in and out of her chair, I was able to decrease the amount of lifting I did. I could lift the chair so that her legs were already extended then I just had to go the rest of the way. This was a huge improvement in my health to be able to better care for her at home and not have to resort to a residential facility. That would have been far more costly and honestly she wouldnt have survived as long as she did if she were away from family. Please approve this life changing equipment!!!
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023

Jane Samel

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	I am an advocate for my brother and several others who have since passed away from ALS. Any and all equipment meant to add comfort to those with this awful condition or assist caregivers who are prone to injury when moving one who no longer has the ability to move on his or her own should be covered by Medicare with no hesitation. This should pertain to any disease or accident that causes one to lose the ability to move without the assistance of another person or persons.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023

Nacole Raphalian

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Anything that can be done to assist a ALS patient in easier mobility, and could give any comfort and especially agency to a person that is dying from this unexplainably cruel disease, should be considered medically necessary. Since I imagine many people dying from ALS, like my father, are living at home and being cared for by family members whom, without a chair to assist, will have to lift and lower the patient. This is a huge physical burden for caregivers, exacerbates exhaustion, could also lead to injuries, etc
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Jorjann Howell

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My brother recently died frm ALS. He waited a long time for insurance to cover his elevated chair. In that time he lost the ability to do simple things like access the kitchen counter. Please help other ALS patients by making their life as comfortable as possible.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Mrs. Marie Zadroga

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Seat elevation would be beneficial to ALS patients during the daily transfer of the patient from bed to chair/Chair to bed. It would allow the patient to be on a closer level with the surroundings and other people trying to assist the ALS patient . It would have been very helpful for my daughter in her 18 year battle with ALS It would have been used several times a day during those 18 years!
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Mrs. Angie Cutlip

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My mom has ALS and is in skilled nursing. Her powerchair is critical for her care and will need a new chair soon as some of the workers in skilled care do not know how to operate and are really rough on her chair. She relies on her lift in chair when no one is in the room to assist her. Many of the workers in facilities do not undersatnd ALS. A worker from an agency got mad at my mom a few months ago because she told my mom to sit up and my mom said i need the hoyer lift to get out of bed and the worker started looking under her bed which obviously she had no idea what a hoyer even was. This is just an example how important devices like a chair lift are medically necesssry for PALS. We really need in home care for my mom but medicaid and medicare do not cover that.. she went through her hard earned retirement quickly with medical needs. She needs 24 hour care that I can not afford. There have been days there was no one to feed her as she can not feed herself. There have been nights she hasn't received her meds until midnight and she needs them to help her muscles relax just a few of the difficulties of ALS.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Jim Werner

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My brother has ALS and sooner or later you will need a power wheel chair so this is important as he is retired
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Thomas Polidoro

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	It is good to hear of Medicare proposing to cover elevated seats for powerized wheelchairs. The impact this can have on a patient and
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caregivers quality of life and medical support is immense and really logically viewed. Helping them in navigating important movement with less stress and overcoming constant deteriorating and degrading physical strength and weakness as they attempt to perform daily hygiene cleaning, bathing, clothing, bathroom needs to just state a few. Daily basic quality of life functions are made a little easier to navigate. Medically, you are putting less stress on a person's body who's physical strength is deteriorating because of the disease. It also helps many patients potentially be more self sufficient and not reliant on others in performing hygiene and bathroom needs which is positive for their mental health, confidence, pride and quality of life. Patients and caregivers need all the help they can in performing daily functions we take for granted and are having to bear unbelievable costs in drugs and care items just to survive daily in declining life.

I saw my extremely fit brother and friends suffering with ALS, struggle daily to perform simple things, as going to bathroom toilet, in or out of bed, etc. They are proud people who don't like to be reliant always on others, and to give them increased and less stressful performance with what little strength and pride they have left is the least we currently can hope to offer them. I lost my brother Michael and friends Dick and Jeff to this dreaded disease, all in 2021. I saw what some things such as a elevated seats could do but also the costs, physically and prices they had to bare or forego.

They have lost the quantity of life so we should medically continue to help them with their remaining quality of life

I humbly ask that Medicare go forth with this enabling benefit as well as any others needed to provide the best medical coverage and tools to improve the quality of life for all involved

Respectfully
Tom Polidoro

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

George Dodge

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

Seat elevation is a must for patients living with ALS. Most importantly since I can no longer stand, the seat elevation in my power wheelchair allows me to turn off and on house lights, reach into the drawers of a hutch where I have to store my medicines, and to be able to grab my laptop off of the counter. I cant imagine surviving without seat elevation. I would not be as safe without the seat elevation. It should be covered by private insurers and Medicare.

Date Submitted 2/24/2023

Margaret Roszak

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	All ALS patients, including my dear cousin Joanie's son, Kevin Geraghty, would benefit greatly from coverage of seat elevation in power wheelchairs. Please consider covering this expense for these patients. Thank You!
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023
<i>Guido Duarte</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	People with ALS disease are having a progressive loss of muscle strength and moving of arms, legs or head are becoming more difficult as the disease advance, so is extremely important the aid of a seat elevation in power wheelchairs to improve the quality of life. Main benefits are: A Power Seat Elevator allows the patient to transfer downhill, putting less stress on the arms and shoulders. With the ability to move vertically, the patient can reach needed spaces and complete more daily activities on his or her own. By eliminating the need to constantly reach overhead and over extend the arms, hand and head, one can reduce your risk for overuse injuries. Getting eye-level with friends, family and colleagues not only helps the patient neck and back, it gives also empowerment and increases the patient well-being.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Mrs. Susan Delaney-Acquaviva</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Hi, Seat elevation is literally the difference between sitting in a wheelchair all day with the fear that if you get up you will fall and being able to safely get out of your wheelchair. It's something essential to ALS patients, especially due to the progressiveness of this disease. In terms of caregivers, it makes moving a patient so much safer. It is important to give patients safety and dignity wherever possible. Thank you, Susan
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Jim Liewer</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	From the first moment when my wife sat in a power wheelchair with seat elevation, I saw a new confidence and a big grin on her face. Fortunately we had received help through Team Gleason to provide the seat elevation which was otherwise one more drain from our savings. The grin on her face said everything about renewed confidence that she could add to the quality of her diminishing life with ALS. It was the difference between feeling like a child looking up (trying to look up, in her case) to an adult, putting her more on a plain with other adults, and giving her the ability to have a face-to-face, eye-to-eye conversation with

<i>Date Submitted</i>	others. For my part, seeing her smile and enjoy the moments of sharing brings so much joy to my heart. With ALS, little things such as this mean a lot! 2/23/2023
	<i>Mr. William Clarkin</i>
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Anything to improve the lives of people living with ALS is a must. Put yourself in their seat, and you'd want to be elevated.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
	<i>Arthur Simon</i>
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My wife, who passed away 12/31/2022, loved her eyesight elevation feature on her wheelchair. It made her feel like a normal person when communicating with others. I paid for the feature. This disease is so costly and mentally draining that making her feel better was a main focus of the purchase. The people with ALS are facing certain death and there is no way to know when that day will arrive. It allowed her to feel alive.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
	<i>Mrs. Deborah Sawyer</i>
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My husband lost his 14 year battle with ALS in 2022. Many of those years were spent in a wheelchair. He was fortunate to have had seat elevation capabilities on his chair. When our boys were younger they were very active in football and soccer. I would bring my husband to every game. Since he was unable to sit in the bleachers he would position his wheelchair next to the field. Inevitable, there was always a chainlink fence in the way. Without the ability to elevate his chair he would not have been able to see the games. Watching his boys play sports brought so much joy to my husband . This feature proved to be invaluable and certainly improved the quality of his life. He also took advantage of this feature at concerts, plays and other events where he needed to be higher in order to see.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023
	<i>Ann Camodeo</i>
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	I am a care giver for my husband who had ALS he passed away 2/6 Elevated Seating helps with circulation as well as trapped gas which was a huge issue for my husband. Wish we had this
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
	<i>Dora Leal</i>

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Allowing ALS patients to be as independent as possible is extremely important. Having the elevation feature in wheelchairs provides this capability and gives caregivers a break. Please. Please ensure Medicare covers this.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Daniel Goodman</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Think. It's just logical.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Mrs. Holly Doiron</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Seat elevation would ease the physical burden of the caregivers and give the person with ALS feel less of a burden
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Lynda Koch</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Having a relative with ALS I can see how hard it is to maneuver. The elevation seat is necessary
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023
<i>Mrs. MaryBeth Ingram</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My husband Terry was in a power chair for 2+ years. We personally funded the \$2000 for the seat elevation because it gave Terry access to people for conversation in ways that normalized interactions and preserved his dignity while dealing with ALS. To look someone in the eye while speaking or listening is usual, 'normal'. To have someone lean down to speak to you is awkward for both parties and makes the person in the wheelchair feel exposed as "other than normal". ALS is altogether othering so to have a tool that removes some of the angst and restores a normal daily activity like conversation is empowering to the patient. As his wife and caregiver, the elevation also allowed us to still hug in a somewhat 'normal' way and that intimacy is so important when human touch and interaction has become problematic. It also allowed Terry to receive massages from hospice which was a self-care step that greatly improved his spirits. Providing seat elevation would bring quality of life to many ALS patients.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Maisie Shen</i>	

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	When my husband could no longer stand on his feet, we had to transfer him from his power wheelchair to the bed and from the bed to the wheelchair a few times a day. Without the elevation function, we could not do this with my female caregiver and me. My husband, without any doubt, decided to pay an extra fee to add the function when ordering the wheelchair to prevent any of us from getting potential injuries. I am sure anyone who unfortunately needs a power wheelchair will appreciate the cost is covered by Medicare. Thanks!
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Michele Fuenzalida</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My name is Michele and I am 47 years old. I have a rare form of ALS. It is called ALS4. It is slow progressive and effects everyone differently. My physical issues started when I was in middle school and have slowly gotten worse. I am currently able to walk but I have to be very careful since my balance is failing along with bad foot drop. My doctors at Hopkins recently suggested that I use a walker for short walks and a motorized scooter for longer walks to avoid injury and falling. At this point is hard for me to walk up stairs or get out of a seat without using my arms to lift me up. I feel that all insurance companies and Medicare should cover all power wheelchairs with no limitations!
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Shekar Dodly</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My wife is an ALS patient and it will be w great help to add additional support from Medicare for the wheelchair
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Mrs. Ann Scott Trapp</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Taking my son to a restaurant. His chair would not fit under a regular table. If ALS patients had the availability for the chair to raise up they can sit comfortably under the high tables in the bar area where they also serve all foods from the menu.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Denise Fried</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My husband lived at home for eight years with ALS. I was his only caregiver. Being able to change his seat elevation was a natural part of repositioning. That might seem small but for a person who is confined to a wheelchair it is significant. As his caregiver, I cannot imagine my added physical stress when taking care of his personal needs had we not had the ability to raise his seat. Finally, in the last few days of my husband's life the lift equipment

<i>Date Submitted</i>	(equipment that I used to transfer him from bed to chair to bed) broke down in mid-transfer. If I had not been able to raise the seat of his wheelchair to meet him at the point of breakdown I would have had to make panicked phone calls for help getting him safely into his chair. It's not just nice to have the ability to change the elevation the seat. It can be critical. <i>2/22/2023</i>
<i>Jackie Armstead</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	As a person living with ALS, it is extremely important for me to be able to communicate with, share meals with, and socialize with others at eye level! We value the life we're afforded and we should not be discriminated against because of a health crisis that has effected our lives and impacted our families tremendously! I am human and like you, if you were in my position, am asking for any decent human would want. To live with dignity! ALS doesn't define who I am! Please have compassion for us! Thanks
<i>Date Submitted</i>	<i>2/24/2023</i>
<i>Mrs. Melynn Sight</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	As you know ALS is almost everything about immobility. Having aides like this not only offers the patient independence, it help ensure caregivers can offer proper care.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	<i>2/22/2023</i>
<i>Melody Lecuru</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My Husband Mark had ALS from 2010-2014. We paid for the elevation device on his power chair. The elevation device allowed him some mobility from power to non powered seating. It made huge differences in him fitting up to and under tables and desks when he still had use of one arm and hand. It was a huge help to me when he no longer had use of his lower half. Putting on his socks, shoes, and pants was easier when I didnt have to bend to the floor! Daily cleaning and shaving worked so much easier and toileting when he could assist and when he couldnt saved my back! It was easier to get him in and out of the chair with the Hoyer lift. And he could lower to use urinal in handicap equipped van or raise to see out the window. That elevation device gave us both more ability to travel and be flexible during the time he was still alive. It allowed him more dignity during his illness. We had the financial ability to afford that elevation device. Im glad it wont be a matter of financial ability for others in the future!
<i>Date Submitted</i>	<i>2/22/2023</i>
<i>Mrs. Dina Schreiner-Rainer</i>	

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

My mom had ALS. She passed six months after being diagnosed. This was 13 years ago. We had no way to make her life easier. She did not have a wheelchair. She lost her voice first. If she had had a raised seat, she would have been able to reach things on the counter. She could have raised up to see her friends and family. Later she had the mask to breath for her, so she couldnt wear her glasses. She couldnt see much at all. Being able to raise a wheelchair seat could have gotten her closer to things and people so she could see them. We were in Hastings, Nebraska. Thank you for letting me weigh in on this decision. I think a raised seat would greatly improve the quality of life.

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Jennifer Bernay

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

Imagine being unable to move without assistance? Your mind willingly tells your body to stand or use the restroom, seemingly basic commands in our every day existence. However, this feat is insurmountable due to your recent diagnosis of ALS. This was my Mom's routine, as she heroically battled this unrelenting disease. Facing each day with this dilemma, how to move without a struggle. Having seat elevation in her wheelchair would have made a enormous difference in her request to move, something many of us take for granted. She valiantly used most of her strength to move from a seated position to use the restroom or simply change the scenery from one room to another. Venturing outside was feasible but limited based on her strength that day. Seat elevation with her wheelchair would have increased her feeling of independence, a long forgotten side effect of ALS. It would have aided those caring for her a reprieve in the their daily routine of helping her. ALS not only robs those affected with simple tasks but also places stress on caregivers who wonder how to help those transfer to chairs, wheelchair vans, restrooms, and to bed. Can you fathom the amount of times these routine exchanges were met with worry and a carefully thought out plan to provide my Mom with some semblance of normality in her battle? Please consider providing this cost for ALS patients and caregivers. They deserve better than having their battle dictated by a loss of the freedom to move. Thank you.

Date Submitted 2/25/2023

Carrie Lau

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

Wonderful news!!!! This should absolutely be covered as it is a necessity for those hit with this horrible disease.

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Audrey Gallagher

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment Date Submitted</i>	Seat elevation is very important for patients with ALS. It is necessary for improving their quality of life while dealing with this disease. 2/22/2023
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Cindy Bednasz

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment Date Submitted</i>	My brother suffered from ALS for 6 years. It stole his ability of movement, speech and even smiling. Getting the tools necessary to make his life the most comfortable was out of reach based on cost, when he was living at home. People suffering from ALS and their caregivers are robbed of so much, please help them in being able to obtain adaptive equipment, including seat elevation in power wheelchairs to help ease some pain and suffering from this terrible battle. 2/22/2023
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Ms. Patricia Flanagan

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment Date Submitted</i>	Please elevated seats! 2/22/2023
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Allison Hartsek

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>My uncle was diagnosed with ALS when I was very young. Although I did not understand what was going on, I remember how deeply I was intrigued with the care he required and wanted to do all that I could to support him. Following his passing in 2013, I began to find ways to become more involved with those with ALS, which led me to pursue a doctorate in occupational therapy. Now in my final semester, I am becoming much more involved in the care of those with ALS, as my doctoral capstone project revolves around improvements in therapy services.</p> <p>I have observed an overwhelming need for seat elevation, as it provides many improvements to each persons' daily life. Seat elevation may assist each person in functional transfers, weight bearing transfers, and their ability to participate with the environment around them. With increased assistance from the wheelchair for those aspects of their daily routine, it is likely to see a decrease in injury, decreased caregiver burden, and improved quality of life. Improvements in these areas can help to lower costs for medical care of those with ALS, as well as the need for caregiver assist/respite. This is a small change in policy that has the potential to provide huge improvements in care, and allow funding to be better dispersed.</p> <p>Thank you for the consideration of the passing of this bill and I hope to see an official change soon.</p> <p>If any other information is needed, please reach out to me at ahartsek7@gmail.com.</p>
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Date Submitted | 2/22/2023

Jimmie Cheek

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	As a former caregiver to someone with ALS this is one of the most important things they need. These power chairs are over\$ 27000 back in 2015 most people do not have that kinda money. Its important for quality of life
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Troy Alexander

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	I think it is great idea because as the ALS progresses getting up is harder as the Als patient.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

'Nita Brown

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My brother-in-law is fortunate to be able to afford the seat elevation in his wheelchair. I see how easy that makes navigating for him.. My brother and sister-in-law developed back aches from having to lift my brother-in law. The lift has relieved them of that pain. From my experience I believe that everyone who has ALS would benefit greatly by having seat elevation equipment. I sincerely hope that Medicare will provide seat elevation equipment for those who need it.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Arthur (Dean) Roberson Jr

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	This is Great news, I have Medicare, however, the Veteran's Administration provide my Excellent Wheelchair with elevated lift, that I use many times a day, to get bowls, plates, cups, etc. from the upper kitchen cabinets. Soooo necessary! Thank you for approving Seat Elevation for Medicare Clients.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Mrs. Dorothy Marsh

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My sister died from ALS in 2013. The people who are suffering with ALS deserve all the help they can get for the two to four years they have.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Cathy Locnikar

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Its the quality of life we are talking about why would that be in question? People living with ALS need whatever can make them more
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<p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>comfortable and if thats seat elevation in a wheelchair than that should be covered for them. Its a medical needed equipment and there should be no question about that!</p> <p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>John Albers</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p>	<p>As my disease progresses I become less independent and require more care by others, however, seat elevation would help prolong my independence so I am less needy. My wife is very small and it is difficult for her to help me up, dress me. Put me in bed, etc. There are so many benefits to help me if seat elevation was approved for us. Thank you so much for listening to our cry for help and quality of life.</p>
<p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Kim Alf</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p>	<p>I am a pALS, slow progression since diagnosis 3/5/2020. I received my power wheelchair in September of 2021. I was fortunate to get the seat elevation grant from Team Gleason. The seat elevation has allowed me to maintain my independence by being able to reach high cabinets, the microwave, bar height tables, and grocery shopping, without having to ask for help. I cant imagine not having the seat elevation. It shouldnt be just an option, its a necessity.</p>
<p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Cathy Geisler</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p>	<p>Please add this coverage It is a necessary part of being able to live in a world of different levels. Without the mobility to move on your own the ability to adjust a chair is huge! It is a necessity! The quality of life would improve greatly and help those with ALS! Please include these chairs in coverage!</p>
<p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>2/23/2023</p>
<p><i>Jill Sirvydas</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p>	<p>My Dad died of ALS in 1991. My dream is a cure for this horrible disease before I die. Please give all suffering a chance to live a better end of their life!</p>
<p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Doreen Stephens</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p>	<p>My husband had, and died from ALS. His mobility was terribly compromised. Have a motorized wheelchair was a blessing. To have a lift mechanism as well would have made it easier to adjust his body</p>

<p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>for comfort while in the chair. Also to lift him out of chair was very difficult for us both . If the chair would have lifted it would have been easier to get him out of the chair, and control his 280 lb body. I have back problems and hurt myself on many occasions. As his 24/7 caregiver, i could not be incapacitated. I could not afford this chair feature but inquired many times if available. ALS is awful on evryone involved but for critical lifting help, having a chair with this feature would have been invaluable. Thank you for your consideration</p> <p>2/28/2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Dave Krupa</i></p>
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>Do it, it's the right thing to do and it will help those that truly need help!!!!</p> <p>2/23/2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Kimberly Shuck</i></p>
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>It would make it easier for caregivers when helping their als patient moving from chair to other places if they were able to elevate some. There is enough strain on caregivers bodies and anything to make it easier is best.</p> <p>2/22/2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Jill Spencer</i></p>
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>My husband was diagnosed with ALS in 2013 and died in 2017. For the last 2 years of his life he was in a wheelchair. We paid out of pocket to add seat elevation to his wheelchair. The diagnosis of ALS is devastating enough but when you are limited to being seated in a world of tall people, standing people, different table heights, and inability to adjust to sink heights, etc it makes life that much more challenging. Seat elevation in a wheelchair is not a luxury item. It is a necessary accommodation for management of ADLs for both the patient and caregiver.</p> <p>2/22/2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Myrna Bergmann</i></p>
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>My Son is 46 and has ALS for7 years' seat elevation is very important for him. it improves his quality of live and self-esteem. he can't walk nor use his hands but with the seat elevation he can stand up (with my help) get better positioning etc ,help with transfers , drink and sit by tables etc</p> <p>2/23/2023</p>

Cathy Bree

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Please for the love of GOD, do anything that may help someone living with ALS or a caregiver. I hope you NEVER have to live the nightmare. I lost my sister to ALS in 2000. She was 44 years old. She left behind a loving husband, a 10 year old son and a 4 year old daughter.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Cindy Youtz

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	I have ALS and now have a power wheel chair with lift. It has made my life better!! I can get into and out of bed with the lift on the chair. I can stretch out my legs and tilt so I can get better circulation into my feet and legs. I can even lift to get into refrigerator and microwave now! This may sound simple, but the lift really helps you feel better physically and is needed by ALS community.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Barbara Hopla

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Being independent is so important to those of us living with ALS. I have struggled for 5 years trying to be independent going from a cane to a walker and now a wheelchair. A elevation seat on the power wheelchair would allow us to continue some normality in our every day living activities. This would also provide some relief to our caregivers.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023

Mr. Robert Horeck

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	I live in a wheelchair, the lift helps me sit at our island table. It also allows me to get to very comfortable positions and to be able to maneuver in tight places. It is extremely beneficial to be able to lay flat in an elevated position in order to change feeding tubes and trachs.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Mrs. Marty Stonebock

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My husband had ALS for 2 years before dying from this disease and I was his primary caregiver. As my husband's health and strength declined, it became more difficult on him and me to transfer him from his bed, to the chair, to the toilet, to the car etc. The process of helping him to a standing position from his power wheelchair always ran the risk of him losing his balance or me hurting my back. When we were blessed with an opportunity to use a wheelchair with a seat elevation feature (borrowed from an acquaintance) it was life altering. He was able to plant his feet and decide when he felt sturdy enough to attempt to transfer safely. It lessened the chances for us to inflict
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injury to him from grabbing and pulling his arms/shoulders. It gave him an opportunity to maintain his dignity a bit more, as opposed to people tugging at him to bring him to a standing position. A seat elevation feature should be the MINIMUM that is covered in motorized wheelchairs. They are an absolute necessity for an individual with ALS.. Please approve this asap.

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Jessie Doll

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

This is fantastic news and my hope is that it passes with a unanimous vote! Seat elevation is so incredibly important for not only the caregiver and their physical well being but also for people living with ALS. People living with ALS have little independence and things that they can do completely on their own is very limited. It is difficult to have to depend on someone to do everything for you all of the time. With seat elevation this will give them more independence and maybe less depression. This is a depressing disease that affects their mental well being just as much as their physical well being. Seat elevation would also help caregivers by helping keep their physical well being in tack so that they can help with other activities. Often times caregivers are small and it takes multiple people to lift/help out of the seat. We should be helping people with ALS and their caregivers to live their best life and to help with their physical and mental well being. Thank you for your time and for listening to my thoughts.

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Amy Easton

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

On behalf of every person with ALS, seat elevation is crucial for caregivers, transfers, quality of life, and the dignity of the person with ALS using a power wheelchair.

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Jean Belding Fay

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

Hello! As a person living with ALS I support Medicare covering the cost of seat elevation systems for power wheelchairs. This feature saves the backs of our caregivers and allows us to transfer from chair to car, to bed and even to toilet with ease. Our ability to move slowly slips away. Please allow us assistive device to help retain some autonomy and dignity!

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Karen Pascoe

<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>I am a caregiver and the seat elevation helps tremendously when I am transferring my husband. It lessens the load that I need to lift. It also helps when I need to brush his teeth or shave him.</p> <p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Mrs. Betty Anne Moser</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>My best friend of 58 years was diagnosed with rapid progressive ALS 3 years ago and died 6 months later. To have had a wheelchair that one could have used to raise her up and down would have been so helpful. I was an RN for 40 years and to move people around is so hard on the caregivers skeletal system. Also , it would help prevent injury to ALS patients so that there would be less likelihood to injure shoulder joints when needing to move them around. The patient would also benefit from being able to see things better as they are in these chairs for long periods of time. Sincerely, Betty Moser</p> <p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Kathleen Whelan</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>immobility and pressure sores are in an enormous concern in caring for people with ALS. Any more mobility that can be afforded them makes a profound difference to both physical and mental health.</p> <p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Phyllis Palmer</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>This is a vital piece of equipment for ALS patients to be able to live with a tiny piece of independence. My family has familial ALS and many could have benefited from this before they died. 8 have suffered from this fatal disease in my family.</p> <p>Phyllis Palmer</p> <p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Mary Eastburn</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>ALS is a devastating disease. My dad has it. There are SO many life changes and Daily Life Aides that are needed. Medicare should cover the elevation equipment for power chairs to make any part of a very difficult day easier.</p> <p>2/23/2023</p>
<p><i>Mrs. Rochelle Autry</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p>	<p>Thank you for listening, my husband has ALS, weve been together for six years hes had ALS for 10. The seat elevation is huge for his self-esteem. Can you imagine life having to look up at everyone, always? He can elevate to be more eye level with people. It helps him to feel</p>

more included in the airspace above four feet. BEven at church when the leader asks us all to stand, he has his own way of standing. Apart from that, and for more practical purposes, he uses his elevation so I can wash his hair in the bathroom sink, to position himself comfortably to see out of the van windows during rides, and even to move himself out of the reach of our pet, who likes to jump on his lap whenever she chooses. When ALS gets to the point of almost complete physical immobility, any flexibility the chair can offer is priceless to comfort and functionality.

Thank you!

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Lisa Palumberi

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

I lost my mom to als 12 years ago. My dad was her main care giver. She did not have a power wheelchair just a regular one. I know that if she did have this type of wheelchair with the seat elevation it would have made it so much easier on my dad and they would have been able to do more things together.

Thank you

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Kevin Honeck

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

As a person living with ALS, I have difficulty getting out of chairs.wheelchairs are challenging due to the feet apparatus. My wife (caregiver) is small and cannot pull me up. It makes for an awkward and dangerous situation.

Date Submitted 2/24/2023

David Strasser

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

I use elevation to use bathroom, used it at my eye exam, used it at Dr.appt, and dental appt.TO RAISE TO MY WIFEs HEIGHT TO HUGE HER.when they say not medically necessary they havent had to use a wheelchair. I got diagnosed with ALS 11/20 and I have not looked back.I always dwell on what I can do today not what I did yesterday.without the elevator I would not be able to enjoy my life the way I live it now.My point of view is all power wheelchairs should have elevators on the so people can enjoy themselves more.

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Luke Kelly

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

I am a 67 year old male diagnosed with ALS on Sept. 30, 2021. Thankfully I am not currently in a wheelchair but, I have concerns of what my future holds. ALS is taking away my strength and range of

motion. Which ultimately affects my independence and quality of life. The seat elevation feature of a power wheelchair enables the patient to move from the wheelchair to the bed or other transfer positions more easily than a chair without this feature. It's safer for the patient and the caregiver. In my case as I said, I'm 67 years old, my wife who is also my caregiver is nearly my age. I am 6 foot and about 180 pounds. She is about 5 foot 5 inches. Simply put, I am too heavy for her. I believe ours is the normal situation where the caregiver is tasked with handling a person who is bigger than she is. Please move forward with your proposal to cover the cost of seat elevation equipment for power wheelchairs it will help us patients hold on to some independence and quality of life and reduce the chance of injury to our caregivers. Thank you. Luke J. Kelly

Date Submitted 2/25/2023

Ms. Sarah Sellers

CMS Seat Elevation Comment Seat Elevation would allow individuals more independence, less isolation, and the ability to have access to their communities.
Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Colonel Ret Dr Eric Lund

CMS Seat Elevation Comment How does or would seat elevation in power wheelchairs improve the quality of life for you or other people living with ALS?

Seat elevation would improve our quality of life by helping us to do our morning toiletries at the sink, to reach plates and bowls and food items in upper shelves, and to see above people's heads at the Performing Arts Center or the sports stadium/center.

How does or would seat elevation in power wheelchairs improve the life of caregivers?

Seat elevation in power wheelchairs would improve the life of caregivers by allowing them rest time while we do our morning toiletries, prepare to eat our meals, and sit to watch the theater or sports.

Why is seat elevation in power wheelchairs important to you?

Seat elevation in power wheelchairs is important to me because I have limited autonomy currently, relying on my wife to be my caregiver for most everything. The seat elevation would give me more autonomy and the feeling of being human again.

Thank you.
Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Mrs. Christine Moretti

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	ALS robs you of everything. At least let patients retain some of their dignity by allowing them to be level with people in conversation by way of seat elevation on their power wheel chairs.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Tom and Carol DeBruin

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Thats about time they do that. Our daughter in law has this horrific disease and when they got her chair had to pay for the elavation feature themselves. Will they reimburse them for that. Its unreal the things they have had to pay out of pocket. Its a wonderful feature. Its gets her at everyone elses level so she not isolated. Anything that helps these victims should be paid for. Its so heartbreaking to see this beautiful woman go through this without a good outcome.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Jim Marx

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	If I didnt have an elevator I would have been totally confined to my wheelchair years ago. I use many times a day from getting myself in and out of bed. I use it to get access to our microwave oven to reheat my food. I also use it to get in and out my lift chair plus getting on my toilet. Thanks Jim Marx Pittsburgh,Pa
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Gina Brown

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	We are wxremely fortunate that the VA was able to give us a wheel chair that elevates it makes it a lot easier foi transfers and to change the patients trach if they are vented. As a caregiver, I speak from experience. Thank You
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Deborah Verzino

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	The care of patients with ALS is physical labor. Seat elevation is not just for the patient it is for the whole care team. Since ALS afflicts men more often than women the mobility equipment is incredibly important because the strength of the caretaker (usually a woman) vs the size of the patient (usually a man) is unfairly skewed. My family had a team of women thanks to daughters and wife and even so the movements for position adjustment and mobility for transfer were extremely difficult and took a team. We were lucky to have each other. Please give people this option for safe, accessible transfers.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023

Annabelle Van Dyke

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Seat elevation in power wheelchairs would have been very welcome for my husband who recently passed away from ALS. It would have been helpful to me as caregiver also.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

William Fish

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	I am a veteran living with ALS. I have a power wheelchair supplied by the VA which is essential. I use it both to reach counters and shelves in cabinets of differing heights, and also to adjust to tables of differing heights to work and eat at. This capability also frees my home health aide from having to assist me with many activities.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Robert Chapman

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>Seat elevation is very important to my wife, who has ALS. The lift mechanism allows her to get a drink of water from the refrigerator. The lift mechanism allows her dignity, by elevating her to her associates so they can communicate eye to eye.</p> <p>She has been using a seat elevator on her wheelchair for seven years. It allows her to feel independent. She has the freedom to do things that are important to her.</p> <p>This little device provides a great deal to her self esteem and belonging within the church and community.</p>
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023

Joyce Lovett

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>As an ALS patient who may end up in a wheelchair, I would love a chair with a seat that elevates. I am 510 and currently use a wheelchair to get around occasionally but have issues with being so low in the seat. As the disease progresses I may have to be in a wheelchair all of the time and would really like to be safe and comfortable. I thank God daily for my slow progression of this horrible disease. I can only imagine someone my height or taller, who has been diagnosed and has rapid progression spending their last days in an uncomfortable wheelchair that doesn't allow flexibility for their body. I pray that the people in charge take time to consider the importance of the seat elevation for anyone who has to live in a wheelchair.</p>
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/24/2023

Marc Rosenstrauch

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Seat elevation is critical. As our muscles atrophy we cant stand up from low seats. Elevation mechanism allows us to stand up from a seated position, and to transfer to rollator.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Christine Morley

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Seat elevation in power wheelchairs would be a big help! It's difficult to lift patients out of their chairs, and impossible, in some cases for spouses or caregivers who may not have the strength. It's also difficult, if not impossible for patients themselves to get out of their chairs without the seat elevation. Please cover the costs for seat elevation equipment! TIA!
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Becky Huntley

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Seat elevation seems like a 'small' thing but would make a huge difference. ALS patients already feel out of control and moving more safely and easily would be one less place to feel precarious and out of control. And what a boon to already exhausted caregivers! thank you for getting this paid for patients!
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Terri Wade

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My mom passed away from ALS. We could have used a wheelchair like that. We need more research on this. If you have never seen this happened to a love one. You would fight harder. It took my mom in a year half after being diagnosed. It was hard watching a woman that took care of a family and a major business. Go down as fast as she did.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Ms. Ellen Shaw

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My late husband, who was diagnosed with ALS in 2013, had a rapid progression, which is typical of familial (genetic) ALS. He was fitted for a power wheelchair from Medicare, but it took months to arrive. In the meantime, the local San Diego chapter of the ALS Association kindly provided a loaner power wheelchair for him to use while he was waiting. That loaner chair had seat elevation, which allowed him to adjust it for dining, sitting at a desk, and lots of other functions that helped him enormously. When he got the Medicare-provided wheelchair, he was, of course, grateful to have it, but disappointed that it didn't give him the additional benefits of seat elevation, which would have made his life that
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<i>Date Submitted</i>	much easier. I strongly endorse adding seat elevation for power wheelchairs. 2/22/2023
	<i>Mr. Joe Stiglianese</i>
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My Mom died too young. Took her in less than a year.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/24/2023
	<i>Sherrie Pellini</i>
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Why not have this coverage for people who need it.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
	<i>Mr. Jojo Garza</i>
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	ALS patients who arent mobile, feel free to move with motorized equipment. Makes for a better quality of life. Caregivers can provide quality care for their patients when not stressed out with having to do so much.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
	<i>Amanda Kence</i>
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	There is no way my father-in-law will be able to pay for a power wheelchair. He is still in a manual wheelchair at the moment but the doctor has warned us as to what to expect next.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
	<i>Efrain Guizar</i>
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Each small win is a HUGE win for ALS patients like me! Find a cure please!
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023
	<i>Gina Prigg</i>
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Gone too soon. Theres no other way to put it. He was my dads best friend, my uncle and my godfather. He was everyones go to guy for a good laugh, helping hand or a buddy to fish or hunt with. I know these elevation wheelchairs would have helped my uncle do all the things he loved as he neared the end of his journey. I want to see others be able to enjoy their time here and do what they love. No one should suffer or feel different. I also feel blessed that this is happening on his 2 year

	<p>anniversary of his death. Good things are happening for those with ALS and I hope that continues. Thank you.</p> <p><i>Justine Gillis</i></p>
<p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p>	<p>Seat elevation is a necessity in power wheelchairs. My cousin suffered with ALS for 7 years. Literally everything was difficult for her caretakers and especially for her. Something as basic as this could provide ALS sufferers just a little more assistance in dealing with daily living and potentially the ability to help themselves at times which would help to maintain just a little of the dignity that this disease robs people of. Please help by supporting this initiative.</p> <p><i>Constance Rucker</i></p>
<p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p>	<p>I was diagnosed with ALS in Feb./2017 I have a motorized wheelchair, it helps with my getting around, because I cannot walk. The elevation for the seat in my wheelchair would be a great help to me to be able to reach my cabinet door for my medicine, It will also be a helpful to my caregiver to get me in the bed and the car. I can also reach clothes thats hanging in my closet. No one knows what its like to have this disease, and not have the resources that you need to survive. Please make my life a little easier by making the elevation of my chair paid by medicare. Thank you</p> <p><i>Shelly Stinson</i></p>
<p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p>	<p>This would vastly improve quality of living for both patients with ALS and the wonderful caretakers that support them! Please make this happen.</p> <p><i>Marc St.Pierre</i></p>
<p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>2/22/2023</p> <p><i>Seiko Miki</i></p>

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Seat elevation will be tremendously important in improving functionality for ALS patients (already limited) and help preserve their dignity. Bothe critical when dealing with a progressive & debilitating horrible illness such as ALS
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Mary Ellen OConnor</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My son died July 19, 2022 after a 3 year battle with ALS. He was 57 years old and left 2 beautiful children on their own. It is a debilitating disease with no cure and affects every area of your ability to live a somewhat normal life. However small a piece of equipment seems, it adds just enough a little something to help in their daily lives. Please do whatever you can for all ALS patients. I appreciate your time and thank you in advance for your help.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Mrs. Deborah Bieseimeier</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My sister had ALS prior to her death. As her disease progressed she was not able to lift herself to move to a chair or bed. If her wheelchair had a power lift seat it would have made caring for her much easier and given her more dignity and quality of life.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Mrs. Shirley Jahn</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	I was sole caregiver for my husband who was diagnosed by Mayo Rochester 10 years before he passed in his sleep, really not anticipated at that time. These folks live with such a bad death sentence that if there is anything a patient and their caregiver believe would help improve their quality of life they should be allowed/helped to attain it. Whatever can help them to be positive and enjoy interacting with others can help im a pleasant end of life for all
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023
<i>Beverly Olsen</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Although my husband has passed from ALS. The elevated seat for his wheelchair allowed me to care for him properly. Otherwise I would not have been able to dress him, transfer him or care for him on my own. In my opinion, it is vital to any caregiver to have this assistance. It also allowed my husband to stand erect, which she could never do without the elevated seat on his wheelchair.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Maggie Wilson

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	wheel chair elevation is so needed not only for the patient but also for the caregiver My son in law has ALS and has slowly lost use of his muscles and my daughter can no longer lift him up by herself thus causing injury to herself and possible to him. Thank you
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023

Susan M. Eynon

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	The chair extendor on me wheelchair is awesome my caregiver takes advantage of the extra height to save her back a lot. I also use it to help brush my teeth help me brush my teeth and have a bit easier time with breathing please vote for its inclusion with Medicare chairs . Thank you. Susan m. Eynon
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/27/2023

Nancy Miringoff

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	The seat elevation will assist PALS with transferring, and it can prevent and reduce sprain injuries. It is more normalizing for a person to have a one-on-one conversation with direct eye contact. There is both a medical purpose, I.e. prevention of injury and a psychosocial purpose.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Bruce Legg

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My son has ALS, he will be 51 in October if he makes it, and the folks who make this decision only need to see the heart ach, pain, and stress for the person who is afflicted by ALS. The monetary wreck that ALS creates is enough to ruin a family who already is losing someone the love and cherish so all the help Medicare can give, all our government can give also please push anything you can for ALS, the afflicted so need your help, think of their families also, Thank you Dad of a ALS patient, {my son is Todd Legg, and My name is Bruce Legg} again thank you for helping out
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Mr. James Maness

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	It is very important to have the elevation seat for wheelchairs. This will make it easier to reach items in my cabinet if I need something. This will give me more independence.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/28/2023

Robert Kraay

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>My wife passed away from ALS in 2020. During our 3-year journey with this illness, her mobility progressively decreased to the point where the only control and strength she had in her hands. Through the donation of a wheelchair from another family who had a member die of ALS, we were able to get a wheelchair for my wife that did have elevation even though at that time Medicare did not provide for it. What a blessing that feature was, both for my wife and for myself as a caregiver.</p> <p>The greatest benefit was that it allowed my wife to maintain her human dignity, as it enabled her to maneuver herself up and into a position where she could communicate with others. It also made it possible for her to continue daily activities much longer than she would have been able to without the feature of elevation, which was a tremendous boost to her spirit. For me as a caregiver (and for the other caregivers who helped) it was a Godsend, especially toward the end, when transfers between bed and wheelchair were particularly challenging. Without being able to elevate the chair to an appropriate height for the bed, the process of transfer would have been much more dangerous for us and for her.</p> <p>In my opinion from my experience, it makes no sense not to include elevation in wheelchairs for ALS patients. By excluding it, it just seems cruel to people who are already facing the prospects of being isolated and of being an undue burden on others as their disease progresses.</p>
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/26/2023

Diane Reinkemeyer

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>My husband suffered with ALS for 2 years. The last 10 months of his life were aided with the uses of a motorized wheelchair. With out this his quality of life would have been a lot less. To have a chair with elevation would have very been useful to him and his caretakers. It was a challenge to move him. He lost all mobility the last 4 months. Please consider the quality of life for those suffering from ALS. Anything that can be done to help them would be appreciated.</p>
<i>Date Submitted</i>	Diane Reinkemeyer. 2/22/2023

Suzanne Wilcox

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>It would allow for me to be more independent around house in reaching things that I haven't been able to in years. This helps my husband, my caregiver, by alleviating some of his duties involved with caring for me. This not only helps us with the physical part of my ALS diagnosis, but could aid in boosting more of a positive mental health aspect for both my husband and I. We would both feel more confident and hopeful with</p>
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<i>Date Submitted</i>	more accessibility options. This can carry over outside of the house as well, such as restaurants or other buildings where I may need to be to support my grandchildren, for example. 2/25/2023
	<i>Kelly Smith</i>
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My mother had ALS and eventually she could not stand up from a lowered seating position. This would greatly help patients with ALS.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023
	<i>Art Jarc</i>
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	safety is the most important reason to have seat elevation available in a power wheelchair it makes for safer easier transfers for myself and my caregiver less chance of falls reducing injury and hospital stays better health thru better living
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
	<i>Patty Bertrand</i>
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Seat elevation for the power wheelchair makes it easier to care for our ALS patient and enables him to access things he couldnt otherwise.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
	<i>Dina DeMayo</i>
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	I watched my father at 75-78 battle this debilitating disease with no cure! I watched my mother at those same ages trying to lift him and make him comfortable with pillows, remote coaches, hospital beds etc. The struggle was real!!!! These patients and caregivers need these chairs for day to day simple activities. My father cried knowing he was only allowed 1 wheelchair and kept putting it off until he needed it. This is am an that was working as a pharmacist until he could no longer walk and stand on his feet at the age of 75!!! Please help these people and give them a chair since there is NO CURE! From a Caring daughter.....
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023
	<i>Liz Doram</i>
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	This is such a needed piece of equipment. It will allow the ALS patients to do more for themselves while they can. And helps the caregivers (usually the spouse) please please cover this under Medicare. People work their whole lives paying into social security-only to be constantly turned down when it comes to retirement needs .

Date Submitted | 2/22/2023

Susan Wade

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	I think this is a great idea not only for comfort when a person is in the wheelchair all day but to prevent skin breakdown and pressures areas from sitting in one spot so long. ALS people are at high risk of infection too so this would prevent that too. I used to be a caregiver for my sister but I'm a nurse too.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Mrs. Carol Nagy

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Please cover the seat elevation for ALS victims.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Mrs. Nickie Strickland

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Seat elevation would allow me to reach water faucets, light switches. Also I could reach clothes in my closet and could hang laundry on outside clothesline thus helping my husband do laundry. I think I might even be able to reach the knobs on my stove and cabinets to cook a little. Again, relieving my husband of some meal preparation. I could get to sink to brush my teeth, comb my hair and wash my hands. I could water my hanging potted plants. I could help my husband shop for groceries by being able to reach items on the shelves. I have to have someone do all these tasks for me. The major benefit for me would being able to arrange my closet and picking out what I want to wear each day. I have had my power chair for over 5 years without seat elevation due to cost of \$2500.00 at the time. Being able to do any of things Ive mentioned would help me feel a little useful and have a purpose. I had no idea at the limitation Id have when I got my chair. If I had known, I would have found a way to get that option.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023

Wynette Williams

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	The elevation in my seat is wonderful! I am able to reach things, set stuff up on the counter as your arms cannot lift up anymore. I like that I can talk to people face to face and not look up.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Dale Valentine

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	I was the caretaker of Gary Conrad for four years before passing. He was a very good friend of ours, and it was very important to him to be at the same level (eye contact) of other people when talking to him. He was very fortunate to have enough money to buy a wheel chair that the seat would raise. It helped him much mentally and emotionally.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Mr. Robert Overberg</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	I use my seat elevator to facilitate transfers out of the wheelchair. I can stand with assistance to transfer to another chair. This greatly reduces risk of injuries to both me and my caregiver wife.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Danielle H Carr</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	I want to applaud Medicare for taking this important step in including the elevated seat feature for ALS patients. It's not only imperative in helping maintain the patients quality of life, and care management, it is beneficial to the caregivers too and protects both from getting physical injury during transfers. By elevating a chair during transfer it easier for the caregiver to stabilize the patient on to a transfer disk and rotate them to a bed or shower chair. It was a devastating expense for our young family when it was not covered for my now deceased husband.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/27/2023
<i>Mrs. Kelly Carter</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	This was not covered when my husband needed a power chair. It is a priceless option that many can not afford. This allows my husband to reach necessary heights and many tables, counters, and gives him the ability to have the height necessary to converse more effectively with others.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Rolando Martinez</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	It helps a lot
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Charlie Pope</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My mother is my father's primary caregiver and she is unable to lift my dad out of his chair without the support of seat elevation equipment. Without it, she would need to hire expensive in-home help much more frequently.

Date Submitted | 2/23/2023

Mrs. Amy Goldberg

CMS Seat Elevation Comment | My husband weighs much more than I do. Trying to move him in and out of his wheelchair is extremely challenging and is impacting my health as a caregiver. A wheelchair which would bring him to a standing position/lower him into the chair would improve both of our lives dramatically.

Date Submitted | 2/23/2023

Mr. John Pokipala

CMS Seat Elevation Comment | Its simple!
It makes your quality of life better & who doesnt like better?!

Date Submitted | 2/22/2023

Sarah Baker

CMS Seat Elevation Comment | As a 62-year-old woman who is 5'2 and 115 pounds, this feature would really help me provide range of motion and other cares to my 2 friends living with ALS.

Date Submitted | 2/22/2023

Liz Jackson

CMS Seat Elevation Comment | As a retired physical therapist who lost a dear friend to ALS this past May, I am thrilled to hear this news. The benefits possible with a sit to stand power chair will be many, to those diagnosed with ALS. Each person's journey is different of course, but with proper assessment of function & need, seat elevation equipment has so much to offer. This feature can do much to enhance quality of life, provide opportunities for weight bearing, prevent the development of contractures & breakdown, as well as improving lung function. Many thanks to those who are working to make this become a reality.

Date Submitted | 2/23/2023

Cheryl Andrews

CMS Seat Elevation Comment | Power wheel chairs being covered helps immensely. Most could not afford these chairs. It gives my daughter- in - law a sense of freedom and independence she could not have without it. It gives my son help with her having some independence and leaves him time to attend to other obligations he has as he is her sole caretaker. Please pass this and implement this legislation!

Date Submitted | 2/22/2023

Julianne Pope

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My husband has ALS and FTD and is struggling with his lack of independence. It would make him so happy to be able do things for himself, especially since he can do so little. It would also help me delay getting a PCA because he would be able to stand up with the help of the chair. Thank you!
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Mrs. Judy Pangborn

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	I have been an RN specializing in ALS and Home Ventilator Care for 35 years. I travel with patients and transport them to appointments, outings and events. It is imperative that they be able to speak with others at eye level which promotes self-esteem and independence to live as normal a life as possible. It is necessary to be able to see when in a crowd and be noticed as a person. It promotes ease of feeding for the caregiver when at a tall table such as restaurants and bars have. I believe it is vital for reducing caregiver back strain when administering personal and medical care. The tilt feature is also a requirement to prevent pressure sores by changing position frequently. Those facing a wheelchair for life must have the ability to be healthy and functional. I am a strong supporter of patient's rights to thrive.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/24/2023

Suresh Patel

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	It will be great news for me since I have ALS since 1088 I will have spare feet since my own feet are not cooperating which are disable.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Spero Vasilakis

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Need counter or bar height chair for shower, and wheel chair and scooter...Cant ever get up with normal chairs no strength.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Mrs. Colleen Casteel

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	This was not covered when my father was diagnosed and later died due to ALS. This is a God-send. Thank you.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Jann Vasiloff

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>For ALS victims their wheelchairs are what connect them to the environment that is now their normal. As my husband's caregiver during our journey with ALS I cannot stress enough the difference it made in both our worlds to have the seat elevation feature on his power wheelchair. Not only did it enable him to participate in his care, it was a safety measure for both of us. When the seat was adjusted to the same height as his bed, his shower chair, the car seat, it took the strain and potential for injury from us of lifting him up, before sliding him from one surface to another.</p> <p>With the seat elevation my husband could reach the kitchen sink, counters and cabinets, he could get things from the upper shelves of the refrigerator, he could reach the height of the bathroom mirror so he could shave himself, he could sit at his desk without having to transfer to a stationery chair, it allowed us to go to restaurants. When his disease progressed to the point that he could no longer assist at all in his care, the seat elevation feature was not an option; it was a necessity for me and his caregivers.</p> <p>However, just as important as the physical asset, the seat elevation feature allowed him to maintain dignity, control and freedom for a longer period of time trapped in a disease that eventually stripped all that away.</p> <p>I encourage Medicare to cover the cost of seat elevation in wheelchairs from the time of diagnosis with ALS. It's necessary for physical and mental health, it's appropriate and it's the right thing to do. Thank you.</p> <p>Jann Vasiloff</p>
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023
<i>Lynn Vescio</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>I am caring for my 61 year old brother for a few days in order to give my sister-in-law some respite time. They had been using caregivers one day a week, paid out of their own pockets, but the caregivers can no longer lift him. The use of a power wheelchair would be a huge help and allow him to remain at home. Please approve this much needed equipment!</p>
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Benjamin Swofford</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>After living with ALS for almost three years, my younger sister at 41 passed away in July of 2022. Throughout the pandemic until her passing I would travel from St.Louis to Washington D.C often to help her family with daily duties and often act more as a caregiver as she felt most comfortable around family. Thanks to the many nurses and local ALS community the last few years were as comfortable as possible. That being said, I learned and witnessed how expensive and how many tools were needed to take care of someone with ALS. Anything and I mean anything to take the burden off the family is</p>

<p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>essential to make those final years as best as possible. Whether its medication, equipment, or experimental procedures, all of these can ease the pain and burden in so many ways.</p> <p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Peter Squier</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p>	<p>My best friend has ALS and it's been horrible to see his deterioration. Unfortunately, his wife is not strong enough to get him out of his wheelchair and into bed, his living room chair or the car. Having a wheelchair that can elevate him would greatly improve the quality of his life and his wife's live. Please approve Medicare covering elevated power wheelchairs!</p>
<p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Dean Corbolotti</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p>	<p>Having these motorized mobile units is imperative for an ALS patient. My mother passed away from this horrible disease five years ago and I could not imagine her not being able to utilize a mobile unit for the last three years of her life. She was fortunate enough to be able to afford one without assistance, but Im sure that is not the case with over half of the patients who have the disease. Any help with the financing or coverage of these mobile units is imperative for those who cant afford it. Please consider.</p>
<p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>Thank you 2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Rebecca Teasdale</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p>	<p>During my husband's five year battle with ALS, the seat elevation on his power wheelchair was important to his safety and mine, and was essential to him receiving medical care outside of the hospital. On countless occasions we visited physicians whose offices did not have any kind of patient lift. For him to be examined or treated he had to be transferred to an exam table, and he weighed 220lbs. With no use of his legs or strength in his back, he was helpless. I had to leave a sheet under him in the chair before we left home, elevate the chair to be level with the exam table, recline the back and raise the legs so he was laying as close to flat as possible, raise the arm of the chair and slide him across from he chair to the table. There was no other way. Without the seat elevation he would have not had access to much needed medical care outside a hospital setting (and one a couple of occasions at clinics inside hospitals). There were times when he lived and slept in that chair, and as his 24-hour caregiver, my back would not have survived bending over to dress, stretch, tend and treat him.</p>

<p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>For an ALS patient, the wheelchair elevation is as important as the hospital bed elevation to any other bedridden patient.</p> <p>2/23/2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Martha Waite</i></p>
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>Once I was dependent on a wheelchair, I was not able to do simple things around the home. The seat elevation system has allowed me to stay independent in basic things like reaching something on a shelf and just being able to look out the window. It also helps the caregiver to be able to have you raised up to a level where you can be easily transferred to a chair or bed. I can't imagine life without this helpful tool!</p> <p>2/22/2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Tiffany Stults</i></p>
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>My dad had ALS. We lost him in November 2021. He was diagnosed in February 2021 and the disease progressed quickly. My mom at 68 years old was his caregiver. My dad weight around 180 pounds and mom could not lift him. Having seat elevation on his power wheelchair would have helped in so many ways. I hope that you consider including this as not only would it increase the quality of life of the patient, but it would also ease the stress of the caregiver.</p> <p>2/22/2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Ms. J. Venneman</i></p>
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>Seat elevation allows for more independence and greater inclusivity in a variety of life events. Additionally, those who help with care are able to better care for individuals and save their backs and health in the long term. I urge you to support elevation in power wheelchairs as a way to keep individuals dignified and to provide safety to those who care for and love these individuals.</p> <p>2/22/2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Heidi Rogers</i></p>
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p>	<p>As I supported my father through living and managing ALS, there were innumerable hoops to jump through just to get the access to basic needs including accessibility devices. Having to navigate these broken systems, running from one person or organization to the next to figure out how to get coverage for these things was exhausting. It took away the energy and time I wanted to have to spend with my father in his last months, weeks, and days and the toll it took on him further withered away his humanity after such a devastating diagnosis and prognosis.</p>

This simple change to allowing seat elevation coverage through Medicare might seem small, but I promise that it's significant. My dad and I talked about his time left on earth as "dog years" so every hour we spent trying to find access and support was more like weeks for what time he had left. Don't allow this to be other people's experiences.

This isn't something that my dad will ever benefit from, but I need it to be available to other people and caregivers trying to salvage a life and existence with this awful disease. In the most earnest plea that I can put forth, please include seat elevation in Medicare coverage. It will lighten an already heavy load for anyone who has to find a way to live with this disease.

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Tom kiely

CMS Seat Elevation Comment
Date Submitted Please approve seat cover elevation
2/22/2023

Debra Doherty

CMS Seat Elevation Comment
Date Submitted My brother lived with ALS for 6 years. Anything that can help to make life a little better for those suffering with this heartbreaking disease will be greatly appreciated.
2/22/2023

Ms. Lani White

CMS Seat Elevation Comment
Date Submitted With ALS I couldnt manage some degree of independence without my powerchair seat elevation. Its not an option its really essential. Please cover this asap. Thank you!
2/23/2023

Sharifah Rosso

CMS Seat Elevation Comment
Date Submitted Seat elevation for those bound to wheelchairs is so important. Thank you for considering to make these available to those who need them, especially ALS patients. My Navy veteran brother would fall much of the time during his last year and a power seat elevated wheelchair would have been so helpful to him.
Thank you.
Sharifah Rosso.
2/22/2023

Tania Jordan

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My father was diagnosed with ALS 3 years ago. He is now 68 years old . My mother who is 67 is his primary care giver. The seat elevation would be a great help to them both as he nor she has the strength to lift him.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023

Vivian Garner

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	As a person living with ALS, but this option would be life-changing for so many. Ive gone without items at the grocery store because I couldnt reach them. Being eye level to be better able to communicate. I know that getting in and out of the wheelchair can be very painful! This reduces the number of times this would be necessary, reducing pain in general. Please approve this.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023

Lynn Eubank

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Seat elevation is so important when having a debilitating disease such as ALS. Not only for the patient, but the caregiver(s) as well. I was one of the main caregivers for my Dad who had ALS. Before we eventually got lucky enough to obtain the seat elevator for his wheelchair, it was almost impossible to provide him with the care he needed. This disease can paralyze you and that unfortunately did happen to my Dad. We needed the seat elevation to get him in and out of bed, in and out of his chair, on and off the toilet, in and out of the car, etc. All these things can be achieved without out it but definitely not safely. Moving these patients in an unsafe manner can cause them physical injury, physical injury to a body that no longer has the means to heal itself. It can also cause the caregiver injury to the neck, back, and any other body parts used in the transfers. I know in my situation, we couldn't afford to lose a caregiver. I just cannot stress enough how life changing tools like the seat elevator are for these patients. They need all the help they can get. Thank you.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Terry Jenkins

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My husband was diagnosed with ALS 5 years ago. He has been blessed with few health issues up until 6 months ago. Once he had COVID IN December, his legs became very weak. He has an extremely difficult time standing up from a seated position. We have been creative so far in coming up with seating options but there have been many falls, calls to neighbors, friends and family for assistance to pick him off of the ground. A wheelchair with a power wheelchair with elevation would make a world of difference because we both know that the future will be in a wheelchair. The wheelchair is low and hard for him to get out of
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<i>Date Submitted</i>	now, not sure what we are going to do. I would hate to have to call 911 at all times of day and night for help if I cant maneuver him. The wheelchair would help him keep his independence just a little bit longer. With this disease, that is really all we can ask. 2/22/2023
<i>Carol Markham</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Just a super "Thank You"!
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023
<i>Karen Lochowski</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My husband has als. Elevation in a power wheel chair would help a lot with lifting for me the caregiver and would give my husband more freedom for longer. Als is a horrid disease, please approve elevated wheelchairs and make our plight a bit easier. Thank you, Karen
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Dorothy Echols</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Please help the people who havethis disease. A seat elevation would help them immensley. Thank you.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Susan Perryman</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Seat elevation helps to prevent skin breakdown, helps with transfers, and the ability to reach areas that could not reach before. Thank you Susan Perryman
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Debra Bagnulo</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Cover all chairs that help. Its proven to assist the care giver and the ALS person.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Beth Hickey</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	I ask that Medicare does whatever it takes to make ALS patients have quality of life.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023

Robert Tipps

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Being afflicted with ALS I believe that an elevated seat is very important tool in care for the patient. Being unable to walk or stand without devices, an elevated wheelchair would be the best option. PLEASE EXPEDITE APPROVAL!
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Kelly Cammarata

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My mother was diagnosed with ALS in November 2019, this disease took her away from me and my family in May 2022. During that time my husband, father, brother, and I would all lift my mother from different positions. When it got to the point where we could not lift her any more safely we had to rely on the generosity of Team Gleason to put in a lift for my mom's electric wheelchair. My mom was a small woman, she was 118 pounds, but lifting her when she couldn't give us any help was extremely difficult and unsafe for me and my family. Without the lift I really don't know how we would have gotten her safely to bed, to appointments, even basic things like using the bathroom. This is by far a necessity for ALS patients and caregivers.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Colleen Williamson

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	A seat elevator would help keep ALS patients more independent as the disease progresses. My Dad would have loved this if he were alive today - but unfortunately this awful disease took him to heaven in 2021. Thank you for helping others who suffer from this hideous disease.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

M Gill

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	I was the main caregiver to my husband with ALS. Having seat elevation function in his power chair was critical to being able to perform basic activities of daily living such as sitting at different sized tables and counter tops to eat, wash his face, socialize, or use his computer. Seat elevation was critical for him to be able to maneuver up the ramp to enter his ADA equipped van to go to doctor, physical therapy and ALS support group meetings, and visit family. He would not have been able to get in the van if seat elevation was not possible. Seat elevation is critical.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Mr. Randall Smith

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	As a former ALS Caregiver for my late wife, I found that wheelchair seat elevation was an absolute necessity. One specific example is when my wife needed dental care while confined to her power wheelchair. We
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<p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>were unable to transfer her to the dental chair but were able to elevate her, as though she was in a dental chair, so the dentist could operate on her at an elevation he needed. Without chair seat elevation, the dentist could not have provided the necessary dental service.</p> <p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Mrs. Connie Evans</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p>	<p>Seat elevation is necessary for my father living with ALS. When he first started using his powerchair he was able to live semi-independently as he was only unable to walk and speak. The seat elevation enabled him to prepare meals in the kitchen which required him to reach items stored in cabinets and to stir pots on the stove top. It enabled him to reach the microwave and bathroom items stored in wall cabinets. When dining at home or in public, the seat elevation adjustment permitted him to adapt to the table allowing him to focus on his eating rather than his seating. As his illness has progressed and he has lost much of his independence the seat elevation feature is just as important but in different ways. When he goes to medical appointments (doctors, dentists, optometrists, barber, etc) he is unable to transfer to their chairs and his chair being able to adjust in all different variations has been vital to his ongoing care. It contributes to his quality of life as well enabling him to elevate in crowds for visibility and for accessibility in stores and other public places. The seat elevation also makes his chair more maneuverable. In a stationary position, there are elevation changes that would make navigating impossible as the foot rests would drag and prevent the chair from proceeding. With the seat elevation adjustment he can raise his chair, thus raising the foot rests, and he can continue forward. For someone with ALS, any amount of independence, safety, and security provided by their equipment is precious and necessary for their care. The seat elevation in power chairs definitely meets this criteria!</p>
<p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Mr. Jacquelynne Lamont</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p>	<p>Please add this equipment as covered under Medicare as it is a wholly essential item that aids in the daily lives of those afflicted with ALS.</p>
<p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Debra Britt</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p>	<p>My brother was diagnosed with ALS and it's from when he served in the Marine Corps during Desert Storm and the Iraqi War. He was exposed to the burning oil fields, many different chemicals that were used. He is in constant physical pain which cannot be treated. Should he get to the point where he needs this wheelchair, I'd be so glad that he could receive one.</p>
<p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>2/23/2023</p>

Michael Londrigan

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Greetings, I received a power chair some years ago and had issues because the seat elevation was not included. It is difficult to reach anything on a shelf and I struggle with daily tasks. It would be great to have the option of a seat elevator which would make life much easier.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	Cheers, Michael Londrigan 2/22/2023

Mr. David Chamberlain

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	WITH SEAT ELEVATION I COULD NOT REACH THE FREEZER OR THE MICROWAVE, PLUS ELEVATION KEEPS THE FROM EATING MY FOOD
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Michael Cosgray

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Seat elevation is IMPERATIVE for me because I am a 6'2" male. My caregivers are all much smaller than I. ALS has been in my family for 50+ years. It killed my grandfather before I was born. 19 years ago this Easter my mother was taken from us. Now the c9orf72 gene mutation is repeating inside me. It's just a matter of when. Help my caregivers deal with the hell that's to come. It will mean the difference between loved ones and strangers taking care of me.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Linda Ungerleider

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My husband was a complete vegetable at 57 from ALS and his only way to see the light of day was being hoisted in the power chair. There is no way Medicare can be so cruel to take those chairs away from those suffering.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Susan Duffy

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My husband and I met and married 8 months after we met. He was handsome, vivacious, healthy and loving. Two months after we married, he experienced foot drop which was then diagnosed as ALS. He was dead fourteen months later. Alongside the love and support of friends and family, the power wheelchair was one of the only items that helped make this horrific disease bearable.
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We were lucky enough to be able to afford a chair which would allow him to stand up and retain his dignity, lie flat or sit and many angles and make it a bit easier for me to care for him.

John was a tall, fit man and was very proud. He did not want anyone else to care for him. I was able to move him from the bed to the chair by using a belt tied around his waist and a transfer board. This only worked because the chair would like flat and allow me to move him.

I could also get him onto a shower/bathroom chair because of the elevated capacity of that miraculous chair.

We were able to go on "walks" together in the neighborhood, and I could get him into the retrofitted van to go on outings. This chair allowed us to enjoy the few precious months that we were able to spend together before he succumbed to the ravages of ALS.

We counted ourselves extremely lucky that we could afford the exorbitant price tag of that chair. It should not be a luxury as it is a necessity for anyone living with the paralyzing nature of this disease for which there is no cure.

Please find it in your hearts to make the last days of the people struck with this menace, as well as their loved ones a little more bearable.

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Brian Ashline

CMS Seat Elevation Comment I am living with als and I have lost the use of my hands and arms so elevated seats in wheelchair would benefit me greatly because with no use of arms I could not push myself out of a wheelchair

Date Submitted 2/24/2023

John Duffy

CMS Seat Elevation Comment I've had ALS for 4+ years and I may be in need of a wheelchair soon. Today the wheelchair is covered by Medicare, but not the lift system. Please approve the entire wheelchair so I don't have to beg for assistance to cover those exceptions. Thanks

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Patty Uba

CMS Seat Elevation Comment Cover Seat elevation can be useful for my husband (who is suffering with (ALS). It aids in the reduction & prevention of Strain injuries. Transfer from wheelchair to other surfaces such as beds and chairs are much easier with aid of an elevation system.

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Cody Garcia

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Seat elevation in power wheelchairs is important to me, as someone with no ties to ALS, is to ease transfer between wheelchairs and enable better quality of life for those living with ALS.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Kelly Serbousek

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My name is Kelly and I am fighting ALS. I do not have seat elevation on my wheelchair. It prevents me from doing many things or makes them more difficult. While I am weak in the arms, I still have use of them, and elevation would improve the quality of life I have with being able to do simple things like brushing my teeth at the sink, for example. Seeing eye to eye with others for a conversation so that everyone is not looking down at me. It would help me be able to get into the vehicle for a doctors appointment more easily - currently this is a true struggle. I would be able to reach for a cup in the cabinet to get a drink instead of waiting for someone to help me. It would open my options and allow me to do things with independence and less struggle - to try and enjoy life while I still have it. The quality of my life would be enhanced for sure and I would be so grateful.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Mr. Richard Mitchell

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My sister, Sue, died of ALS 25 years ago
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Chelsea Snow

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Seat elevation helps the person with ALS feel more involved, and more able...at least I know my mom would have. May she rest in peace or fly on wherever she is <3 For a caregiver, this relieves strain and makes everyone more comfortable in many assets of daily life and caretaking.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Ms. Judith Massey

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My husband was diagnosed in 2013 with ALS and quickly moved forward on his ALS journey with the loss of use of his legs. The elevated wheelchair allowed him to function so much more on his own to keep his independence. It also allowed for physical therapy to keep some muscle tone while in the chair. Please consider improving the quality of life for the time that those suffer with ALS. He died in 2015 with dignity
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<i>Date Submitted</i>	and gratefulness for those that supported him thru the journey. Judith Massey 2/22/2023
	<i>Ms. Nina Walfoort</i>
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	I have ALS and I bought my chair over three years ago. I am so glad it had an elevated seat. Not only has it allowed me to see people at eye level when Im at parties or museums, but I can use it to raise myself to reach things that are on tables or shelves. It really makes a difference in my life.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
	<i>Kelly White</i>
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	PLEASE cover costs for seat elevation to be covered by Medicare. ALS is a horrible disease and is very expensive.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
	<i>Ann Lezzer</i>
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	I lost my brother to ALS in June 2022. I witnessed the struggle that ALS patients have in dealing with all aspects of their lives. Anything and everything that can be done to improve the quality of their lives and those of their caregivers is essential.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
	<i>Bourgon Reynolds</i>
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	This would have helped my Mom continue to live more normally for longer. Please cover this!!
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023
	<i>Richard Niederberger</i>
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My sister died from ALS and an elevating seat would have made it easier for her as her ALS progressed.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023
	<i>Randy Toombs</i>
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	It would give a person living with ALS more independence
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

William Woods

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	We are thrilled that Medicare is proposing to fund seat elevation devices for wheelchairs. This will make life much more efficient, and less wear and tear on me [with ALS] and my caregivers. Thank you for your ongoing consideration.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Bonnie Levy

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My husband has ALS and received his power wheelchair last week. A seat elevation is imperative to him so that he and others who need to would be able to reach new heights! Thank you for your consideration!
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Mr. David Peck

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	This is great news for ALS patients like me. It is a must for standing and for lying flat very hard to live without. This is a must!
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Patricia Berry

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	I answered this for myself earlier (I am the caregiver), but my husband who is a full time wheelchair user wanted to weigh in as well. A seat elevation in my power wheelchair would enable me to do many things others take for granted, like: Reaching the lock on a door, changing the temperature on a thermostat, being able to reach items on counters & cupboards, making transfers possible if there was not a powerlift available via a slide board, being able to work in a raised garden area in our yard, being able to talk face to face with someone as I cannot turn my head side to side and looking up to speak is quite difficult, being able to use the sink in the bathroom . This is just to name a few things that having a seat elevation chair would help .. I could probably go on and on given enough time to really write a list.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Elisa Kraus

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	People facing ALS are already robbed of so much. An elevated wheelchair provides invaluable freedom to to be more independent.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023

Ms. Susan Gordon

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	In adding seat elevation yo power chairs would help getting in and out of cars
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Date Submitted | 2/22/2023

Mrs. Sharon Stutsman

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	I have to have a seat elevator or I would not be able to transfer from my chair to the toilet and my caregiver would have to do it and use a lift
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023

Joan Robison

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	The elevating seat for the wheelchair is fantastic for everyone!!! Visiting with my friend of 44 years eyeball to eyeball is refreshing and we are able to connect on an equal level. Our last visit was so relaxed and lovely much like when we were in college 44 years ago! The elevated seat has given her much more independence and boosted her self confidence!
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/24/2023

Allyson Sapp

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	ALS takes away motor abilities but doesn't take away mental. These people deserve a chair that allows mobility and elevation to do activities of daily living with dignity. This disease is a thief of ability, and a thief of life.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Bernard MacDonald

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	I am happy to have the power lift on my chair. It allows me to have access to elevated items I wouldn't be able to reach.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Mr. Oliver Korsness

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My wife had ALS, we had a power wheel chair for her and had to pay extra for a lift accessory. It made her more self-sufficient to do dishes in the sink, set a counter to feed herself while she could, to get a glass of water on her own, to help her stand to go to bed, and many other daily functions. To me all electric wheel chairs for ALS patients should have lifts as standard equipment and paid for to help them feel more independent as long as they are able. ALS is very hard mentally on patients as they slowly lose their muscle control while their mind isn't affected. It is one of the cruelest physical diseases a person can possibly have in one's life. I saw her cry many times when she tried to do daily things but her body would not respond. I don't know how she managed to keep her positive attitude during this very stressful time, a belief in God cared her through knowing soon she would be pain-free again. Thank you.
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Date Submitted | 2/23/2023

Dee Kuzniewski

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	It is extremely hard, sometimes almost impossible to move and position an ALS patient. Seat elevation and other positioning devices are a necessity.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023

Mr. Brian Mahinsk

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Anything that would improve or make the living with ALS better, no matter how small or big should be covered by Medicare. And seat elevation in power wheel chairs is just that. The benefit to patient and caregiver is undeniable. The uses are numerous, easier transfer from chair to bed etc., ease in personal hygiene care and the degree of dignity it provides is huge. To help someone move better and live better should be what Medicare is all about.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Emily Sapp

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My uncle was given a power wheelchair by the ALS Foundation in his last year of life battling ALS. It was a crucial part of his day to day life, as it allowed him to move as he could not move his body. It also helped his caregivers as he could transport himself without them needing to carry him. Finally, the adjustable function of the chair allowed him to lay back and sit up, thus improving his blood flow.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023

Ms. Kristin Rooney

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	When my father was living with ALS, my mother was his primary caregiver. It was physically challenging for her to lift him to and from the toilet as well as in and out of bed or any time he needed to be somewhere other than his wheelchair. Having seat elevation is essential for both the patient living with ALS but also for the caregiver. It alleviates some of the physical strain that comes with caregiving for a patient with ALS and it also provides a bit more freedom for the person who has ALS, which is important for psycho, emotional well-being of the patient.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Janine Kelley

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Any improvement for people with ALS and to make there life easy is a Win Win!!
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Date Submitted | 2/22/2023

David Hauser

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

Living with ALS is very trying for both patient and caregiver. Having the option to raise the seat position is very helpful to avoid the constant view of midlines and belt buckles. Avoiding eye contact due to lowered position takes away from the conversation and limits the effectiveness of the interpersonal dialogue that is so needed to maintain a sense of togetherness and community. Try watching any outside event in a wheelchair. The low position increases the difficulty and enjoyment. This is a very good idea to help patients cope with ongoing trauma the disease presents. Thanks for helping the handicapped.

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Jessica Anderson

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

Eventually, a person with ALS relies solely on their power wheelchair for mobility and/or comfort. Because of this, they need to be able to raise and lower the wheelchair seat in order to complete daily tasks to maintain quality of life - examples: reaching for certain items that are higher, being able to have eye contact during conversations, assisting caregiver to provide better personal cares with more access to the body of the person with ALS. It seems to me, as an advocate, that the seat elevation feature should be a standard, covered piece of the power wheelchairs. They help people maintain their quality of life in so many ways.

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Misha Shokraei

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

My father was a physician and was diagnosed with ALS in 2016 and lost his life in 2017. My mom and I cared for him and without the seat elevation his life was altered and he could not perform his daily activities. In addition, our lives were altered as well as we many times faced physical restraints on our back, shoulder and arms from trying to have to move or elevate him. All of our lives were impacted due to lack of elevation. The quality of care was compromised and as a result we all suffered.

Misha shokraei
RIP Dr. Mohammad E Shokraei (my father)

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Marty Davidson

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My wife passed away from ALS and I was her primary caregiver. Having the seat elevation equipment allowed her to better control the chair and it allowed me as caregiver, when she was no longer able to move, extra mobility which was necessary for transferring, eating, and improved overall comfort for her. I support Medicare providing the seat elevation as a covered expense.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Jo Anne Jury</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My husband has ALS and will likely be in need of a power chair with elevation in his future. We have heard from many others how important this elevation is to their mental wellbeing as it provides the opportunity for them to be on the same level with others to converse or at least feel a part of what is going on. Many of those suffering from ALS have already lost so much including the ability to walk, stand, eat, talk, use their hands or arms, that being able to feel part of the group can mean the world to them. I'm sure it also affords them the ability to reach something they need or be on the same level to reach out to hug a loved one.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023
<i>Richard Chase</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	I am living with ALS and it SUCKS!!! I was approved for the electric chair but not the lift option which was \$1500. I was able to obtain a grant from the Gleason foundation and let my word be heard. It should be standard for ALS patients. I use the lift option every day for one to get in and out of the chair. It also makes using a sink to wash my hands very convenient. I also use it daily for my food. Rising up to counter level is soooooo useful. Also for having conversations with others rising to their level makes it less degrading. So to end here this option is very important for me personally. I couldnt imagine life without it. Just my two cents worth being lucky enough to have it. Thank you for your time
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Susan Ellis</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Medicare should absolutely cover the cost for seat elevation for people with ALS. This is a cruel, debilitating disease no one should have to suffer. Please, give these folks any help you possibly can!
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Gus Martschink</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	I am a retired Hospital Chaplain. I have observed patients & close friends and their families trying to use non powered wheel chairs

<p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>unsuccessfully. Patient Weakness & elderly family members cannot adequately or successfully use non powered wheelchairs. Power wheelchairs and other power equipment should be a minimum requirement for all ALS patients! It is the least we can do to help the struggling patient and their families. Please do this ASAP! Thank you. PeaceGus Martschink 2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Suzanne Charlton</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p>	<p>My father and mother were both diagnosed with ALS in 2016-6 months apart. My father was a veteran and the VA supplied his power chair with seat elevation. My mother received her power chair thru Medicare and did not include seat elevation . The seat elevation provided so much more freedom for my father-to adjust to different table heights for eating, to facilitate getting him in and out of the chair. It would have been so much better if my mother had the same opportunity. Additionally I will say that getting my dads chair approve thru the VA was so much more straightforward. The Medicare process was incredibly challenging and lengthy. Particularly with the short life expectation. If I hadnt been available to push through the Medicare paperwork my mother may have died waiting for her chair. In closing, Ive had experience with both parents with ALS. One with seat elevation and one without which gives me a unique perspective to advocate for it. 2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Mr. Matthew Patterson</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p>	<p>A wheelchair seat that elevates would be another way to strengthen leg muscles. It would also make transfers easier for both persons living with ALS and caregivers. Weight bearing for persons with ALS I believe would give better absorbtion of calcium in bones. It also may give another option for doctors for weighing their ALS patients that can weight bear rather than a scale that can accomodate a wheelchair. Physical therapy options would increase also if persons with ALS had wheelchair seats that elevated. In addition, as a person living with ALS, it would be awesome to stand every so often and have a different standing perspective of the world. Thank you for considering having wheelchair seats that elevate for persons with ALS.</p>
<p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Maryann Richmond</i></p>	

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	After suffering for two years, my younger sister died a horrific death from ALS. By the end she was using a wheelchair, but of course she didnt have the strength to lift herself from it. That job sell to my brother-in-law, although he wanted desperately to be able to help her., he was suffering from pancreatic cancer, and with his chemo regime, he rarely had the strength to be able to lift her. Unfortunately, this legislation is too late to help my sister, or my brother-in-law, who died from his pancreatic cancer less than a year after my sister passed. But it is not too late to help thousands of other ALS suffers and their families. This is such a simple thing you can cover. But it would make such a big difference to so many people I encourage you to give final approval.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Dr. Larry Lewin</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	People living with ALS deserve seat elevation equipment for power wheelchairs. Medicare should cover the cost of this equipment.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>I Nelson</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My husband has ALS and I think Medicare should pay for not only the seat for wheelchairs but for recliners and walk-in showers for anyone with any disability
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Tony Halford</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Seat elevation would help those with ALS communicate with others when they are at a similar hight. Also when they are higher up they can see more, even when they have lost the ability to use their legs.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Mr. Tom and Lynn Prybylo</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My Son in law who recently passed away with ALS had seat elevation in his last wheelchair and it was an amazing assistance for him wherever he had to go out and be at a table etc.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Tiara Roberts</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	I received my electric wheelchair in June of 2022 and got a grant for it to be elevated. It has helped me to Stand without having someone lift me to transfer to chairs use bathroom facilities and bed. I am able to access items from the kitchen counters sink etc. I am still able to

<p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>live in my home without requiring 24/7 caregiver care. This wouldnt be possible if I didnt have this chair. Living with ALS BETTER Thanks TF Roberts 2/24/2023</p>
<p><i>Carol Vera</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p>	<p>I am at the point in my ALS disease progression that standing up unaided from my wheelchair is nearly impossible. That means all the things I used to take for granted like reaching up for a coffee cup in the cabinet, taking a book off the shelf, pulling down a window shade, need to be done for me. Even more seriously, the movements that require assistance such as transfers to bed, to car, to toilet require my family members to lift me. It is a great strain on their backs even when done properly. A seat elevation in the wheelchair would save us all from frustrating and harmful struggling.</p>
<p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>2/27/2023</p>
<p><i>Mrs. Tamilyn Poll</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p>	<p>My 26 year old son had ALS and had an elevated seat wheel chair. This brought him so much dignity. He was asked to be a groomsman at his sisters wedding and could elevate his seat the be nearly the same height as the bridesmaid he went down the isle with. Also people didn't have to bend down to talk to him, he would elevate at be at the same level as them. For his caregiver, it made it easier for her to feed him and get him lifted into bed. Approving payment through Medicare for this feature would be a great asset to anyone in a wheel chair for all the reasons I mentioned above.</p>
<p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Margaret Decker</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p>	<p>My sister is fighting the tough battle that people and their families fight with they have ALS. This coverage would be so helpful for her and the family. She has falling many times when trying to get out of her wheelchair for various reasons. She has black and blue marks all over her body due to these falls. Her son has been treated in the emergency department for muscle tares in his chest from lifting his Mom so she can use the commode, sit in her lift recliner, sit at the table to eat with her family, and picking her up after a falls. This type of equipment would make daily things a little easier for her and her family.</p>
<p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Mrs. Mary Johnson</i></p>	

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	This is great news for all ALS patients! My family has familial and having lost more than 16 loved ones, this is a MUST-HAVE, not a nice to have! Having the ability to provide assistance in quality of life, by easier moves and for caregivers the needed help to prevent hurting the loved ones as well as themselves!
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023
<i>Denby Baker</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Seat elevation is so much needed by us with ALS. To me it makes the difference between being able to shower and not. Being able to go to he bathroom. I'm 6ft4" tall so being lifted while transferring is mandatory and so much safer. Being able to be lifted like I've mentioned is a lifesaver.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023
<i>Jeff Doran</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	It has been 82 years since Lou Gehrig died of ALS. Despite the efforts of the ALS Community there is still no cure for ALS. So prior to a cure, what can be done to allow pALS to leave as normal a life as possible. One goal is to allow dignity in their daily life. One possible way to achieve this is thru "Seat Elevation" equipment for power wheelchairs. It would have significant meaning to be able to look someone in the eye when meeting in person. It would have significant meaning to be able to change positions during the day and alleviate bruises and skin condition common in pALS. It would have significant meaning for caregivers to be able more easily care for us and be a positive moment for out families. I urge you to take action and allow Medicare to cover the costs of this equipment. The cost weighed against the benefits is small, the gain gain be huge.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	Thank you for your time Jeff Doran Snohomish WA, 2/27/2023
<i>Jill Erhardt</i>	
<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My husband uses the seat elevation often. It helps him feel a little more normal in many ways. He has helped me trim trees by being able to hold the branches while I trim. He is able to reach his favorite clock on the wall and wind it himself. One most important feature of the seat elevation is that it helps immensely with his transfers to the toilet, lift chair and bed.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Stacey Lee

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	More funding for ALS
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Mrs. Jacqueline Miller

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	As a caregiver to my husband living with advanced ALS I benefit from our out of pocket purchase of his power wheelchair seat elevation every day. We use it in the morning to position him in the chair properly and comfortably. He elevates and tips his chair back frequently throughout the day to prevent skin issues and reduce swelling of his feet. He can have conversations eye to eye with me and friends and family. At the end of the day adjusting his chair height makes transfer out of his chair a safe process for me as well as him. For these and other reasons seat elevation in a power wheelchair is not a luxury, it is a necessity.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/23/2023

Jared Curtis

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My son suffered from the ravages of ALS for two years before dying from its effects two weeks ago. During the last months, he and his caregivers were greatly aided by power lift chairs, one fixed that enabled him to stand and walk about, and one with wheels that enabled caregivers, mainly his wife, to wheel him to the bathroom and lift him to use the sink and the toilet. Access to this type of equipment is terribly important for anyone living with ALS and their caregivers. I strongly urge you to support Medicare coverage of these important devices. Jared Curtis Seattle, WA
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Robert Gehrman

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Seat elevation improves the patients quality of life. Since they cannot move to change comfort the elevation can assist with that. Elevation can also help the caregiver making adjustments to the patients comfort by having easier access to those adjustments.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Kathleen Snow

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My brother lost his battle with ALS 5 years ago. A wheelchair with seat elevation was not a convenience but a necessity. He paid in to Medicare as we all have, it is NOT an entitlement.
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Date Submitted Medicare money belongs to the folks who paid into it, not the government.
2/22/2023

Marsha Rosenthal

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

I am an ALS patient for approximately 2.5 yrs. Only 6 months ago, I required little assistance, but everyday this disease robs a once very active, independent person of strength to ambulate and remain independent. My most recent concern is difficulty rising from a low seat, especially if no chair handles. I have had to resort to a hydraulic lift device for my recliner and elevated toilet seat with handles. I have anxiety about being able able to arise from even handicapped toilets, and regular chairs, when away from home.As a result, I often opt to sit on my rollater seat in stead. I have not tried a wheelchair yet. I have requested wheelchair assistance in airports during a cross country trip to California in a few days. A power wheelchair has been reserved for my use at Disneyland during our visit with family. My biggest concern is being able to rise without assistance, from any type of seat, whether it be wheelchair, airplane seat and/ or toilet. My spouse is 84 years old with a bad back. He has tried, unsuccessfully before, to assist. Adding seat elevation to wheelchairs would greatly relieve anxiety in those of us with ALS. Staying engaged in normal activity, as much as possible, helps prevent fear and despair. I am blessed to have much to live for(spouse, 2 wonderful children and 3 young, delightful grandchildren). While adding chair elevation may seem a small measure, it would represent one less worry that those of us with ALS , as well as our families, have to stress over . Please vote to have Medicare cover cost of seat elevation. Marsha Rosenthal.

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Mrs. Patricia Marie Gabrielse

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

I have worked in healthcare with ALS patients. On a personal level my brother in law died of ALS. I learned that as the disease progresses preventing skin breakdown is a huge challenge. Sitting in a wheelchair lends to this. The elevating chair helps relieve pressure on the skin. It also allows the person with ALS to experience life at a standing level which is better for mental and physical health. Thank you.

Date Submitted 2/22/2023

Mrs. Jamie Cain

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

My dad passed from ALS in 2008. This is a huge victory for ALS patients and we hope even more victories are to come. Thank you so much! Jamie

Date Submitted | 2/22/2023

Ms. Laurie Smith

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

My brother passed from ALS in 2001. I watched him try to maneuver himself up and down from seated positions until eventually it was impossible. His wife had to assist him each time. The disease is horrible enough coupled with humiliation of not being able to do anything for yourself breaks even the toughest of spirits. One must also consider the strength the care give must have lifting the person. Please pass this for all considered. Remember my brother Jeff Holder and his wife Cindy, and the countless others that will benefit from this equipment.

Date Submitted | 2/22/2023

Renee Dempsey

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

I am a caregiver for my mom living with ALS. I was the caregiver for my sister that fought the battle and lost to this beast of a disease. Having seat elevation in power wheelchairs is essential. I currently have to lift my mom out of the wheelchair with the help of someone else, using every ounce of muscles I have. With seat elevation the task would be substantially easier. She currently has a recliner with seat elevation and she also has a toilet with seat elevation. Both are extremely helpful as would be the seat in a power wheelchair. Please think about the ALS patients and their caregivers when making this final decision.

Date Submitted | 2/22/2023

Brenda Ochoa Burciaga

*CMS Seat Elevation
Comment*

I was my mothers primary caregiver during her battle with this terrible disease names ALS.

We were fortunate enough by having a powered wheelchair with seat elevation. This not only helped us in day to day activities. Her being able to reach the sink and grabbing a glass of water. This disease takes away completely the abilities a person, that anything small they can still do for themselves is motivational. Going out to the grocery store and being able to grab something from the top shelves helps the person still fee somewhat independent.

Talking to family members and being able to see them eye to eye and not having to look up, especially when they begin to lose all basic functions of movement is incredible.

That small things make a huge difference in the daily living of people with ALS.

Date Submitted | 2/22/2023

Mary Dandurand

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Seat elevation is important to my nephew and his wife. He was active duty military, tall and quite strong. He is now dependent on his petite wife to care for him. Any equipment and research is significant to their well-being and to that of their entire family who supports and watches this devastating disease. Thank you for asking and for listening.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	Mary 2/24/2023

Claudia Burrows

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	<p>My seat elevator helps me to be independent in my home. It allows me to give my caregiver a small respite from the constant demand that my care entails. I can get myself a glass for a drink of water, get a snack out of the fridge, and can open the blinds! It also allows me to eat at the table with my family rather than sitting below table height like a small child.</p> <p>My seat elevator also allows me to transfer more safely to surfaces such as my bed which are not at the height of my wheelchair.</p> <p>My seat elevator allows me to get to eye level with other people. This is empowering in conversation. It allows me to elevate myself to a height where people can see me when I'm in a crowded environment and allows me to get to counter height in places (like doctors' offices) where the counter is designed for people who are standing.</p> <p>My seat elevator makes my life safer, more pleasant, and easier to navigate, and gives me added independence.</p>
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Charlotte Faris

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	SEAT ELEVATION HELPS PREVENT SORES, AND HELPS CIRCULATION IN ALS PATIENTS THIS HELPS THEM BE MORE COMFORTTABLE IN WHEELCHAIRS.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Don Ward

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	Please approve the coverage of elevation wheel chair for ALS patients. This dreaded disease takes everything from the patient.
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<p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>We are experiencing ALS first hand. It is a journey I would not wish on ANYONE. As well as stripping the inflicted person of their motility, humanity, pride, and appearance it drains their financial resources.</p> <p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Mrs. Sally Evans</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>As a former caregiver, sister died with ALS in 2013, the elevated seat makes it much easier for the caregiver and its less difficult for the patient. Please please please pass this.</p> <p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Mr. David Bradley</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>als patients need support</p> <p>2/24/2023</p>
<p><i>Valerie Barrs-O'Mara</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>I am a person with ALS. I was diagnosed in March 2018 and by the summer of 2019 I was wheelchair-bound. I was so fortunate to have been given a wheelchair with that had seat elevation. It is so important when youre having conversations with people to be able to look at them eye to eye. If you have to sit in the chair and look up not only is uncomfortable for your neck, but it makes you feel like a victim or a patient. With the seat elevation, I feel like I am in the same conversation and people arent having to look down to me to talk with me. It is as much of a help for my physical wellbeing as my mental wellbeing. I strongly support this legislature being finalized. This disease is bad enough. Any break we can get is very helpful. I am one of the lucky ones. I was given a life expectancy of 2 to 5 years. In a couple of weeks, I will be hitting that five year mark. I am doing as much as I can to advocate and educate. This is a no-brainer to me. Valerie OMara</p> <p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Ms. Linda Clauson</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p>	<p>Thank you for reading my reason why coverage in Medicare for power seats on wheelchairs for those with ALS is critical for them, and caregivers.</p> <p>When my son was suffering from ALS every advantage to be comfortable, helping caregivers and feeling more included in gatherings is vital for everyone involved.</p> <p>When Erik could raise up to counter height he was very happy he could try to cook for the family while he still had use of his hands.</p>

<p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>To see him feel a part of the family or even in any gathering was so important to his mental state as well. This is a very expensive disease and every bit of financial help is important. Thank you for moving forward to help anyone with ALS & those impacted by this brutal disease.</p> <p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Ms. Patricia Folsom</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>As a caregiver for a person with ALS, it would make those daily living tasks like feeding, grooming, and dressing so much easier, and perhaps help prevent some backaches, and general fatigue. Caregivers have to take care of their own bodies to carry out caregiving for as long as they are needed.</p> <p>For the person with ALS, it would enhance quality of life, especially in view of the fact that quantity of life may be lessened to 5-6 years, with significant physical decline in each of those years. One quality of life example would be to be for the person with ALS to be at eye level with family, friends, caregivers, and others, which relates to that whole issue in society of 'looking down at others'. Let's 'nip that in the bud'. Another quality of life item relates to going to museums and being enabled to view artwork at eye level, instead of having to look upward, which can be very fatiguing, and a person with ALS has only so much energy in his/her energy bank each day, and some of that energy can be depleted by the previous day's expenditure.</p> <p>2/23/2023</p>
<p><i>Shannon Horstmeyer</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>Having a chair with seat elevation was essential to my mom who suffered from ALS. It improved our ability to care for her and her overall quality of life. I believe it was instrumental in keeping her in her own home during her battle with ALS.</p> <p>2/22/2023</p>
<p><i>Susan Dowd</i></p>	
<p><i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i></p> <p><i>Date Submitted</i></p>	<p>The benefits of seat elevation seem obvious for increasing accessibility and comfort. I'm not in a wheelchair but am a short person, and I find most seats - my drivers seat, restaurant seating, etc. - too low for me. I have to sit on a cushion when I drive and also at my desk. It would be terrible for people in wheelchairs to have this additional burden in their already-restricted life. Being able to elevate the seat as needed would be a terrific feature for them.</p> <p>2/22/2023</p>

Mrs. Linda Martin

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	It helps make us feel independent. We need to feel as useful as long as we can to do things.
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023

Mrs. Darlene Parkos

<i>CMS Seat Elevation Comment</i>	My husband could have benefited from seat elevation feature. It would have been easier access for me his caregiver to give him better care. Like in transferring him, able to better access his feeding tube plus able to have options for his comfort. Please consider. if your quality of life plus knowing you have no choice to enjoy what life you have left.. wouldn't you'd want this feature. Thank you, Darlene Parkos
<i>Date Submitted</i>	2/22/2023