

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

It is always worth checking with your GP or other health care professionals what can be provided free of charge from the National Health Service.

Disabled Living Foundation (DLF)

DLF helps older and disabled people find equipment solutions that enable them to lead independent lives. They advise on the whole range of products for personal care, mobility, eating and drinking, cooking, communicating, sitting and sleeping etc. They also advise on how you might obtain items from health, social, educational and/or employment services according to your circumstances or where to purchase them privately. Sometimes people feel they need to buy an expensive item when maybe all they need is a simple item and a demonstration on how to use it safely and effectively. DLF looks for practical and cost-effective solutions.

380-384 Harrow Road, London W9 2HU

0845 130 9177 Helpline, 10am to 4pm weekdays

020 7432 8009 Textphone, 10am to 4pm weekdays

Email: info@dlf.org.uk

Website: www.dlf.org.uk

Disability Equipment Register (DER)

DER is a database of specialist equipment which is either for sale or wanted by a disabled person or members of a disabled person's family. A monthly magazine containing adverts for equipment available or wanted is sent to subscribers. The adverts are also listed on the website.

4 Chatterton Road, Yate, Bristol BS37 4BJ

01454 318818 Fax: 01454 883870

Website: www.disabilityequipment.org.uk

Independent Living Centre

Essex County Council has created an Independent Living Centre in Colchester to demonstrate how simple changes to your home could raise your quality of life. It also has an exhibition of Telecare equipment that can monitor for fire, flood, falls, gas and movement around property. They can alert help automatically and provide support and reassurance to carers, enabling people to stay in their own homes. An Occupational Therapist (OT) is available by appointment for free advice and assessment on all equipment. The OT will also offer advice and information on council and charitable provision, as well as local and national suppliers, if people want to purchase privately. For further information:-

Catalyst House, I Newcomen Way, Severalls Business Park, Colchester CO4 9YL

01206 518888

1st Call Mobility Ltd

This commercial company is also known as the Essex and Herts Independent Living Centre. Call in for friendly and professional advice. You can buy or hire a very wide range of mobility and care products from the Town Centre showroom. Appointments can also be made through the showroom for customers and health professionals to try out a wide range of specialist products at the Assessment Centre at the New Horizon Business Park, Barrows Road, Harlow.

14-16 Little Walk, The High, Harlow CM20 1HY

(01279) 425648 Fax: (01279) 425653

Website: www.1stcallmobility.co.uk

Rainbow Services (Harlow)

Wheelchairs can be hired for a small charge for short periods e.g. by the day or week. For more information, ring (01279) 308151.

Email: info@rainbowservices.org.uk

Red Cross (British)

The Red Cross Community Equipment Loan Centre can lend many types of non-disposable medical equipment e.g. wheelchairs, walking frames and sticks, crutches, bath boards, commodes and high-rise toilet seats. There is no charge but donations are welcome. This is a service run by volunteers for short-term loans where the anticipated need is up to 8 weeks. For longer-term loans, ask your G.P. It is also possible to buy some items from the Red Cross. Ring them for more information.

Community Equipment Loan Centre, Bradbury House, 10-11 Marshgate Centre, Parkway,
Harlow Business Park CM19 5QP

01279 428569

Website: www.redcross.org.uk

There is no longer a Red Cross Hut at The Stow.

St. Clare Hospice Centre

Equipment can be borrowed, following an assessment of need by a District Nurse or other professionals.

(01279) 773773 Advice Line and Equipment