**Group 2 vs. Group 3 Power Wheelchair Bases**

**Group 2 Power Wheelchairs – (K0820 – K0843)**

* A category of chairs designed primarily for regular use (greater than 2 hours/day) needs on flat hard surfaces with minimal to moderate surface irregularity
* Basic Equipment Package includes:
	+ Standard integrated or remote proportional joystick
	+ Non-expandable controller
* Basic programming capabilities
* Minimum performance characteristics
	+ Dynamic stability – 6° incline
	+ Top end speed – 3 mph
	+ Distance per charge – 7 miles
	+ Obstacle climb – 1.57 inches
* Does NOT include drive wheel suspension
* Captain vs. Rehab Seat
	+ Captain seat cannot accommodate wheelchair seating or positioning components
	+ Rehab seat can accommodate seating and positioning items (e.g., seat and back cushions, headrests, lateral trunk supports, lateral hip supports, medial thigh supports)
* Single Power Option (K0835 – K0840) / Multiple Power Option (K0841 – K0843)\*
	+ Capable of upgrade to expandable controller
	+ Capable of upgrade to alternative control devices
	+ \* Currently no MPO bases available from any manufacturer in the US

**Group 3 Power Wheelchairs – (K0848 – K0864)**

* A category of chairs designed for a mixture of continuous (all day) use needs on flat to rolling terrain, and hard surfaces with moderate surface irregularity
* Basic Equipment Package includes:
	+ Standard integrated or remote proportional joystick
	+ Non-expandable controller
* Minimum performance characteristics
	+ Dynamic stability – 7.5° incline
	+ Top end speed – 4.5 mph
	+ Distance per charge – 12 miles
	+ Obstacle climb – 2.36 inches
* **Required to include drive wheel suspension to reduce vibration**
* Captain vs. Rehab Seat
	+ Captain seat cannot accommodate wheelchair seating or positioning components
	+ Rehab seat can accommodate seating and positioning items (e.g., seat and back cushions, headrests, lateral trunk supports, lateral hip supports, medial thigh supports)
* No Power Option (K0848 – K0855) / Single Power Option (K0856 – K0860) / Multiple Power Option (K0861 – K0864)
	+ Capable of upgrade to expandable controller
	+ Capable of upgrade to alternative control devices
	+ MPO capable of accommodating a ventilator

**The question is – What PWC base will accommodate all settings of anticipated use?**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Dynamic Stability** | **Min. Top Speed** | **Min. Distance/Charge** | **Obstacle Climb** | **Suspension** |
| **Group 2** | 6° Incline | 3.0 mph | 7.0 miles | 40 mm (1.57”) | NO |
| **Group 3** | 7.5° Incline | 4.5 mph | 12.0 miles | 60 mm (2.36”) | YES |

Individuals with neurological conditions often have limited or absent motor control; therefore, drive wheel suspension on a Group 3 chair may be necessary to reduce spasticity and/or reflex activity brought on by the jolting forces created by traversing uneven terrain or negotiating thresholds. Drive wheel suspension may also be necessary so that the individual can maintain contact with their drive control device, their seating and positioning components, or both.

For an individual who will use the chair “all day, every day as their ONLY way of getting around” the distance per charge is extremely important, especially if they are traversing a multitude of terrains, are closer to the top end of the chair’s weight capacity, must cover fairly long distances or a combination of all 3, which draws more power from the batteries.

If the individual traverses mostly level terrain and the environments they encounter consist of minimal transitions a group 2 base may meet their needs. However, if the environment they will, or are likely to encounter once they are provided with an appropriately configured PWC includes uneven concrete, grass, gravel etc… then a Group 3 chair is recommended for navigation in these areas.

If the individual has absent or impaired sensation and/or balance limitations the ability to safely negotiate a 7.5° incline (whether that be a ramp or the landscape of mother earth) is essential for safety as an individual with an impaired sensory-motor feedback system may be unable to sense instability of a Group 2 base, which could put them at risk for injury when they encounter a hill or steep ramp.