

Wheelchair Seating Assessment



Identify the resident's seating problem and the underlying reasons from the choices below. Select from the list of suggestions those you think will improve the resident's seating.

Resident Name: _____ Date: _____

Problem: Resident slides out of chair

Reason: Resident Slides Out of Chair

- Contoured cushion with large well space
- Ischial shelf/Antithrust cushion
- Solid seat insert with back support
- Other solid seat insert _____
- Seat belt attached at 80-90 degrees
- Hemi-height wheelchair
- Drop seat

Reason: Inadequate Hip Flexion

- Seat-to-back angle adjustment to fit hip flexion
- Footrest adjustment
- Adjustment to angle of w/c back
- Wheelchair with adjustable back
- Adjustable back seating system for w/c
- Back support modifications to w/c
- Lap tray
- Other: _____
- Contoured cushion with trough for femurs
- Other: _____

Problem: Resident leans left, right or forward

Reason: Flexible pelvic obliquity

- Adjustable foam, fluid or air cushion to raise cushion under low side
- Other: _____

Reason: Flexible pelvic obliquity

- Contoured cushion with support for femurs and greater trochanters
- Seat belt attached at 80-90 degrees
- Other: _____

Reason: Asymmetrical Trunk or Scoliosis

- Deeper back system with lateral supports
- Three-point support system^a
- Lateral support with accommodation on opposite side
- Hip bolster with accommodation on opposite side
- Arm support
- Adjustment to back of wheelchair
- Other: _____

Reason: Fixed Pelvic Obliquity

- Foam, air or liquid cushion to fill space between bony prominence and seat surface on low side
- Other: _____

Reason: Fixed Pelvic Rotation

- Contoured cushion with large well space
- Cushion modification to support both longer and shorter extremities
- Other: _____

Reason: Anterior Pelvic Tilt, Falling Forward or Kyphosis

- Contoured cushion with large well space
- Ischial shelf/Antithrust cushion
- Solid seat insert with back support
- Other solid seat insert _____
- Seat belt attached at 80-90 degrees
- Adjustment to angle of w/c back
- Wheelchair with adjustable back
- Adjustable back seating system for w/c
- Other: _____

Problem: Propelling Difficulties

Reason: Feet Not In Correct Position

- Removal of one foot plate for foot propulsion with adjustment of other foot plate for non-functional foot
- Cushion depth adjustment for full leg excursion (notched one side for one-foot propeller)
- Drop seat
- Hemi-height wheelchair
- Thicker cushion to raise seat
- Other _____

Reason: Inefficient Propelling

- Review of engineer wheelchair inspection/ensure repairs completed
- Adjustment of cushion/seat height
- Adjustmetn fo handrim/wheel position
- Replacement wheelchair
- Powered^c
- One-handed^c
- Other _____

Wheelchair Seating Assessment

Problem: Feet Not Staying on Foot Rest

Reason: Limited Knee Extension

- Foot plate and hanger adjustment
- Angle-adjustable foot plates
- DME consultation ^b
- Placement of feet on floor (if foot propeller)
- Drop seat
- Hemi-height wheelchair
- Cushion w/ adequate posterior thigh support

Reason: Nonfunctioning Lower Extremity

- Cushion with adequate posterior thigh support
- Front hanger adjustment (with thigh/cushion contact)
- Full foot plate that extends from heel to toe
- Foot plate adjustment
- Heel loops
- Leg rests
- Other: _____

Reason: Ankle Contracture

- Foot plate adjustment
- Angle-adjustable foot plate
- DME consultation ^b
- Placement of feet on floor (if foot propeller)
- Drop seat
- Hemi-height wheelchair
- Cushion w/ adequate posterior thigh support and space behind knee for full excursion

Problem: Pain or Skin Breakdown

Considerations:

- Gel or air cushion to assist in healing skin ulcer
- Cushion to distribute pressure
- Cushion to accommodate fixed deformities
- Other: _____

Problem: Unsafe Behavior

Considerations:

- Contoured cushion with large well space
- Ischial shelf/Antithrust cushion
- Solid seat insert with back support
- Other solid seat insert _____
- Seat belt attached at 80-90 degrees
- Hemi-height wheelchair
- Drop seat
- Adjust angle of w/c back
- Wheelchair with adjustable back
- Adjustable back seating system for w/c
- Other: _____

Notes:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

a. Three point support system: 1) Thoracic region at most extreme point of scoliotic curve 2) Just under the axilla, avoiding axillary pressure 3) Low pelvis. Attach supports to chair back or back support system

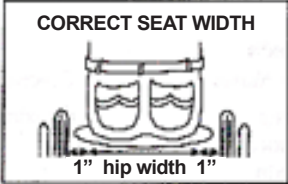
b. Durable Medical Equipment

c. If resident demonstrates competence

Wheelchair Seating Assessment

For all residents who use a wheelchair or sit in a wheelchair for reasons other than transport only, collect the following measurements and assess the resident's position while seated. Based on your evaluation, determine if the resident is unsafe while seated in the wheelchair.

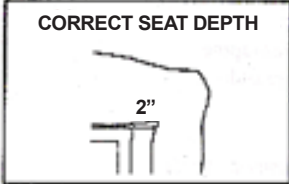
Use the following measurement to determine if the wheelchair seat and armrests are the correct size for the resident.



CORRECT SEAT WIDTH

1" hip width 1"

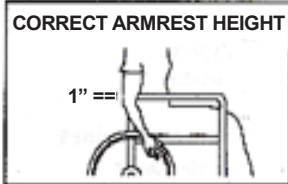
Hip width + 2 in. = ____



CORRECT SEAT DEPTH

2"

Thigh length - 2 in. = ____

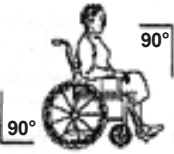


CORRECT ARMREST HEIGHT

1" ==

1 in. higher than elbow = ____


After the resident has been seated in the wheelchair for at least 1 hour, compare her position with the pictures to determine if she is seated correctly.




90°

90°


Correct position with two 90° angles



Sliding down



Leaning over



Leaning to one side

Source: Falls Management Program, Emory Center for Health in Aging.