



Conclusion

All wheelchairs belonging to the Wheelchair Service should be returned if no longer required by your resident. Please note that the care home is not insured if a Wheelchair Service chair is used by another resident.

All wheelchairs and accessories belonging to the Wheelchair Service should be insured against fire, theft and damage.

Use of Wheelchairs in Care Homes

Frequently Asked Questions



Contact Details

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Use of Wheelchairs in Care Homes

Frequently Asked Questions

Can patients share the care home portering wheelchairs?

Yes. Wheelchairs used for portering and outdoor purposes in care homes can be used by different residents. We recommend that a risk assessment is carried out initially to ensure that the portering wheelchair is suitable both in size and type to meet their needs.

It is important that the wheelchair is always set up each time to meet the requirements of each resident.

Should residents always wear a pelvic strap or lap strap when using the wheelchair?

Yes. Residents when using a wheelchair should always wear a pelvic strap. The strap is required both for residents safety and to help maintain their hips in the optimum position. When a wheelchair is being used for many residents it is advantageous if the pelvic strap has a single pull tight mechanism which allows it to be easily adjusted to meet the needs of different residents.

Do we need to adjust the footplates each time a portering wheelchair is used for a different resident?

It is important that the resident's feet are well supported when using the wheelchair. In order to meet the different height requirements of residents you might want to trial using different height cushions in the chair. We suggest that you use 2" cushions for shorter clients ranging to 4" cushions for tall residents. Always use the appropriate pressure relief cushion for each resident if indicated.

Should cushions always be used in the wheelchair?

Yes. Cushions should always be used in a wheelchair to aid comfort, pressure relief and to aid shock absorption.

What other safety indicators do I need to be aware of?

- Brakes** must always be applied when getting in/out the wheelchair and when the wheelchair is stationary.
- Footplates** must be moved to one side when the resident is transferring in/out the chair. Residents must never stand on the footplates when transferring.
- Anti Tippers** may be fitted for your resident's safety. However they can be removed whilst a carer is pushing the wheelchair. You might find that that it is easier for the carer to negotiate kerbs with the anti tippers removed. Anti tippers must always be replaced once stationary.

How long should a resident be in the wheelchair for?

We would recommend that a resident spends no longer than 3-4 hours at any one time in the wheelchair before being transferred to another position. Residents should not sit for long periods of time in the portering wheelchair but be transferred to an easy chair for comfort.

What shall we do if one of the wheelchairs develops a fault?

If the wheelchair belongs to the Wheelchair Service please contact our approved repairers on Tel: 0116 2600055.

If the wheelchair is owned by the care home or by a resident we would recommend that you contact a reputable mobility shop to access the repair service.

What shall we do if a resident develops poor posture within their wheelchair?

Please contact the duty clinician at the Wheelchair Service on Tel: 0116 2456168. There is a duty clinician available Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9.30 to 12.30pm.