Care of the wheelchair and accessories

- Wheelchairs and accessories should be wiped down regularly with a damp cloth
- Belt and harness if provided, should be regularly cleaned with a damp cloth and mild detergent
- Wash and care instructions for cushion covers can be found on the label attached to the cover. WARNING - make sure the cushion is placed into the cover the correct way, this will be indicated on the cushion or cover
- If the NHS issued wheelchair needs a repair please contact the contracted repairer J.R. Wooddisse - Tel: 01902 494336 - as soon as possible

Patient details

Name:
NHS number:
DOB:
Equipment provided -
Chair:

Cushion:

Accessories:

Comments:

Nursing home staff present at handover and demonstration of equipment:

Name:
Sign:
Name:
Sign:
Name:
Sign:

Contact details

Worcestershire NHS Wheelchair and Posture Service.
Crown Lane, Wychbold, Worcestershire. WR9 0BX.
Tel: 01527 869107

Sitting Safely

A Patient and Carer Information Leaflet for Care Homes (Nursing)
**Why is correct positioning important?**

1. Improve and maximize Comfort
2. Pressure area management
3. Postural deformity - prevention and accommodation
4. Prevention of secondary complications
5. Social interaction

**Wheelchair sitting times**

Using the new warning card system, all NHS Wheelchairs in Care Homes (Nursing) will be tagged with a coloured card to raise awareness to the person, carers, family and staff that their sitting tolerance is limited. The following is guidance for how long a person should sit:

**UPTO 1 hour** - Person with a category 3/4 sore.

**UPTO 2 hours** - Person with a category 1/2 sore, History of previous pressure injury.

**UPTO 4 hours** - Person at risk but skin intact and all other people.

Be aware that a wheelchair is a mobility aid, and should be used to move a person from room to room where they can be transferred into a suitable arm chair.

A wheelchair should not be considered as the main form of seating.

**Why has the NHS supplied this wheelchair?**

- The person met the eligibility criteria
- The person requires postural intervention to meet their indoor room to room mobility needs
- The person has an appropriate armchair that can be used to sit out and a wheelchair is needed to access this armchair

**Does the chair have tilt?**

If the wheelchair has tilt this will have been demonstrated to the Care Home (Nursing) staff present at the handover. You can find out which of your team was present on the back of this leaflet.

Tilt in space wheelchairs are provided to facilitate safe mobility whilst enabling pressure redistribution when sitting and to assist with postural management. They do not replace the need for an armchair. For people that are hoisted, maximum rearward tilt is advised for accurate positioning in the wheelchair.

**What About custom made seating?**

Custom made seating is provided for those people who have a greater need for postural support. Even with that greater need, they must have access to a suitable arm chair before this option can be considered by the NHS wheelchair service.

Accessories are issued to ensure the wheelchair is used safely for the purpose of indoor mobility.

**Does the chair have special accessories?**

Below are possible accessories that you may find on an NHS issued wheelchair.

- Hip belts / pelvic positioning belt
- Chest harnesses
- Foot sandals
- Lateral supports
- Elevating leg rests
- Special controls (powered wheelchair)
- Head rests
- Arm supports
- Cushion

The issued accessories should always be used with the wheelchair as explained at the handover. If you have concerns about the wheelchair or any of it’s accessories please call the Wheelchair Service - Tel: 01527 86910

**Pressure management**

Following assessment by the NHS wheelchair service a pressure relieving cushion may have been supplied. This must be positioned correctly. Your team member who was present at the handover will have been given instructions regarding this. Details of this can be found on the reverse of this leaflet. Cushions must only be used by the person they were issued to, if you have any concerns contact the Wheelchair Service.