

## **WHEELCHAIR PRESSURE-REDUCING PADS**

### **PURPOSE:**

1. To support the bony prominences of the ischial tuberosities.
2. To reduce pressure and prevent skin breakdown.
3. To distribute pressure evenly over the surface of the buttocks.
4. To maintain adequate circulation.
5. To relieve pain and discomfort.

### **EQUIPMENT:**

According to the assessment of the resident's individual needs, obtain one of the following pressure-reducing devices:

1. Foam pad.
  2. Gel pad.
  3. Air pad.
  4. Combination of the above.
  5. Appropriate pad cover.
- DO NOT USE DONUT TYPE OF DEVICES.

### **PROCEDURE:**

**NOTE:** ANY TYPE OF PAD USED SHOULD SUPPORT AND HOLD THE BONY PROMINENCES SUSPENDED ABOVE THE SEAT OF THE CHAIR.

1. Place pad on wheelchair and cover with appropriate cover.
2. Assist resident into the wheelchair, using proper transfer techniques.
3. Check to be sure clothing or protective cover is not wrinkles under the resident.
4. Be sure the resident's clothing covers his/her back so that his/her skin is not in contact with the plastic back rest.
5. Cover legs with lap robe if desired by resident. Pad wheelchair arms and leg rests if necessary.
6. Permit the resident to remain in the wheelchair according to the physician's order or as tolerated.
7. Position at least every two hours and toilet as necessary.
8. Apply restraint if ordered using proper method of application. Remove restraint at least every two hours, exercise resident and change position.
9. Assist resident to the area of the facility desired. Encourage and instruct resident in proper procedures for safely propelling the wheelchair.
10. When returning the resident to bed, take to bathroom, assist with transfer to bed as necessary. Change clothing as necessary.
11. Leave resident in comfortable position with call light within reach.