

WHEELCHAIR, USE OF

PURPOSE:

1. To provide mobility for the non-ambulatory resident with safety and comfort.
2. To provide mobility for residents learning to become independent in activities of daily living.

EQUIPMENT:

1. Wheelchair.
2. Protective seat cushion, if necessary.
3. Pressure-reducing seat cushion, if necessary.

PROCEDURE:

1. **NOTE:** WHEELCHAIR SHOULD BE THE PROPER SIZE; IF TOO LARGE, THE RESIDENT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN GOOD BODY ALIGNMENT. IF TOO SMALL, SKIN IRRITATION WILL RESULT DUE TO PRESSURE.
2. APPLY BRAKES TO LOCK WHEELS OF WHEELCHAIR.
3. Fold foot rests up out of the resident's way for safety. DO NOT REMOVE FOOT RESTS UNLESS RESIDENT USES FEET ON FLOOR TO ENABLE MOBILITY.
4. Pad seat of chair with pressure-reducing cushion and light cover if necessary. Do not sit resident directly onto plastic or foam cushion.
5. Assist resident to dress in appropriate clothing with proper footwear as per plan of care.
6. Assist resident into wheelchair, using proper transfer techniques.
7. Lower foot rests and place resident's feet on foot rests if used. Position feet and legs in good body alignment. Be sure residents feet are securely positioned on foot rest/use calf supports and adaptive equipment as needed (foot board/foot boxes). Elevate leg(s) as ordered.
8. Check to be sure clothing or protective cover is not wrinkled under the resident.
9. Be sure the resident's clothing covers his/her back so that his/her skin is not in contact with the plastic back rest.
10. Permit the resident to remain in the wheelchair according to the physician's order or as tolerated.
11. Assist resident to bathroom and re-position at least every two hours.
12. Assist resident to the area of the facility desired. Encourage and instruct resident in proper procedures for safely propelling the wheelchair.
13. When returning resident to room, assist with transfer to bed, recliner chair, etc. as necessary per plan of care.
14. Leave resident in comfortable position with call light within reach.

PROPELLING WHEELCHAIR BACKWARD:

Wheelchairs are to be propelled forward unless it is unsafe to do so. For safety, wheelchairs are propelled backward over elevations, door thresholds and rough surfaces.