

WHEELCHAIRS: SEATING & MOBILITY EVALUATION

Description of Issue and Importance

People depend on their wheelchairs. It has to “look good, smell good, work well and fit well”. A poorly fitting wheelchair can lead to loss of independence, injury, illness, pressure sores and death.

Recommended Action and Prevention Strategy

The person needs a “Seating and Mobility” assessment by a therapist who specializes in this type of evaluation if person using the wheelchair:

- Is acting, looking like or communicating that s/he is uncomfortable
- Is developing a pressure area
- Has wheelchair parts that do not work right, are broken or missing or if it is unknown what the part is for or how to use it
- Has not had an evaluation within the last year
- Has had a change in status since last assessment, including clothing size change or weight loss/gain of 10 pounds or more
- Is sitting in a “sling seat, sling back” (standard) wheelchair for MORE than 2 hours in a day.

Related Resources

Wheelchairs series Reminders: “Safety & Maintenance”, “Cleaning”, “Staff Training”

“Recognizing Change in Status” and “Responding to Change in Status” Reminders

Outreach Training “Wheelchair Evaluation”

Outreach Training Calendar and Event Schedule <https://ddrsprovider.fssa.in.gov/Events>

Outreach Services

outreach@fssa.in.gov • DDRSOutreach.IN.gov

For related reminders and resources, please visit DDRSOutreach.IN.gov.



Indiana Family & Social Services Administration
Division of Disability & Rehabilitative Services
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