

Your Wheelchair Seating Appointment



There are many types of wheelchairs available to suit almost any need. During this appointment, your therapist will work with you to determine which type of wheelchair best suites you.

By selecting the correct type of chair you can expect

- more efficient mobility
- a chair that suits your needs for a longer period of time
- greater comfort
- fewer problems with skin break down

To do this we will consider

- What are the expectations for how this wheelchair will be used?
- How will the wheelchair be transported?
- Is the home wheelchair accessible?
- Are you currently receiving therapy, and if so, what are the goals and expected outcomes of the therapy?
- Consider all environments in which the wheelchair will be used (eg, home, work, school, leisure, recreation).

What should you expect during this appointment?

- Your appointment may be about an hour long.
- There may be a vendor from the wheelchair company to help us.
- We may need to take measurements of your body and limbs.
- Wear comfortable clothes and be prepared to move some.
- Come well rested and ready to "try" some chairs on.
- For safety, wear comfortable clothes and supportive shoes

Your therapist will work with you to customize your wheelchair. Here are some of the components that will be selected

- Will you push the wheelchair with your own power or need battery power?
- Frame & Seat, including seat cushion.
- Backrest, including insert. Backrests are available in various heights
- Armrests, including lapboard. Wheelchair armrests may be fixed or removable-
- Front rigging (i.e., footrests and leg rests) There are many different types of footrests and leg rests
- Wheels, including tires, casters, hand rims, and brakes.
- Support accessories. You may be more secure in a wheelchair equipped with supportive pads, seat belts or other accessories such as a tray for a work surface.

For more information, these resources may be helpful

http://www.invacare.com/cgi-bin/imhqprd/inv_catalog/prod_cat.jsp

<http://www.medicine.uiowa.edu/CDD/patients/wcprint.asp>

Life on wheels: the A to Z guide to living fully with mobility issues, Karp Gary Medical pub c2009

Medical Equipment web sites:

Eugene, OR http://www.apria.com/branch_locator1/1,3577,496-Oregon,00.html

Springfield, OR <http://www.gatewaymedicalequip.com/>

State index of all suppliers in Oregon

http://www.stateoforegon.com/directory/medical_equipment_supplies.html?&pp=a