

Adjustment Principles of Accessories and Commercial Body Supports

Ken Munro, Moira Dewar, Ian Loudon shared a variety of useful and innovative ideas to assist carers and health professionals when positioning wheelchair users, such as:

- Ensure the person sits centrally and all way back in seat by placing pressure on both or one side of the pelvis, (depending on position required) and maintain that position with firm pressure over the pelvis with a padded belt.
- Pelvic belts can be used to hold or alter pelvic position eg 4 point belts for anterior tilt, one sided D ring pull to reduce pelvic rotation on one side
- When hoisting wheelchair user into seat, tilt the wheelchair back or use full tilt in space position to ensure pelvis is right back in the seat
- Try using a one way slide sheet to prevent someone sliding forwards in the seat
- Try placing the hoist diagonally or side on when hoisting to ensure the wheelchair user sits right back in seat
- With some wheelchair users it isn't easy to place a sling for hoisting. Ever tried putting a slide sheet behind first then slipping the sling down between the slide sheet and the back rest?
- Did you know that any alteration, even using Tippex to mark eg headrest position, could be classed as a medical device and as such might not be allowed!

A friendly skeleton demonstrated the principles and lively debate was raised by the attendees. We could have continued for longer and some items didn't have an airing, but there was plenty of food for thought, and we all have tried and tested ideas, and experience to share.