

WHEELCHAIR TRANSFERS
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Dental Treatment of Geriatrics and Special Patients
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WHEELCHAIR TRANSFERS

- o Some patients who use wheelchairs can transfer themselves into the dental chair
- o Others need assistance. The extent of your involvement will depend on the patient's or caregiver's ability to help.
- o Most people can be transferred safely from wheelchair to dental chair and back by using the two-person method.

	Advantages	Disadvantages
Manual Wheelchairs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lighter in weight 2. Greater reliability 3. Easier to transport 4. Less expensive 5. Provides a level of exercise 6. Easier to overcome accessibility problems 	Self-Propulsion: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Possible secondary complications (sore shoulders, wrists and elbows) after long-term use. 2. Requires physical effort to be mobile
Scoters	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aesthetics, does not look like a wheelchair. 2. Increases mobility range without increased exertion 3. Swivel seat may allow for easier transfers in and out of the seat. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More complicated to transport in a car than a manual chair. 2. Needs charging 3. Less flexible to modify to changing physical conditions than a power chair.
Power Wheelchairs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Greatest mobility range with least exertion. 2. Easier to modify over time, if needed. 3. Available with power seating options – tilt and/or recline. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More Expensive. 2. More difficult to transport. 3. Less reliable than manual wheelchairs.

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WHEELCHAIR PARTS

- o Brakes
- o Side arm rails
- o Footrests
- o Seat belts
- o Hand grips

Sports Wheelchair

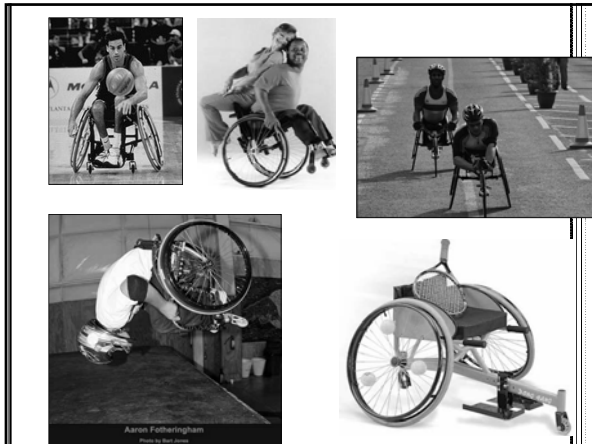
Cart

Youth and Pediatric Wheelchairs

Dance

Handcycle





SIX STEPS TO A SAFE WHEELCHAIR TRANSFER

- Step 1: Determine the patient's needs
- Step 2: Prepare the dental operator
- Step 3: Prepare the wheelchair
- Step 4: Perform the two-person transfer
- Step 5: Position the patient after the transfer
- Step 6: Transfer from the dental chair to the wheelchair

STEP 1: DETERMINE THE PATIENT'S NEEDS

- Ask the patient or caregiver about
 - preferred transfer method
 - patient's ability to help
 - use of special padding or a device for collecting urine
 - probability of spasms
- Reduce the patient's anxiety by announcing each step of the transfer before it begins.

STEP 2: PREPARE THE DENTAL OPERATORY

- Remove the dental chair armrest or move it out of the transfer area.
- Relocate the hoses, foot controls, operatory light, and bracket table from the transfer path.
- Position the dental chair at the same height as the wheelchair or slightly lower. Transferring to a lower level minimizes the amount of strength necessary during the lift.

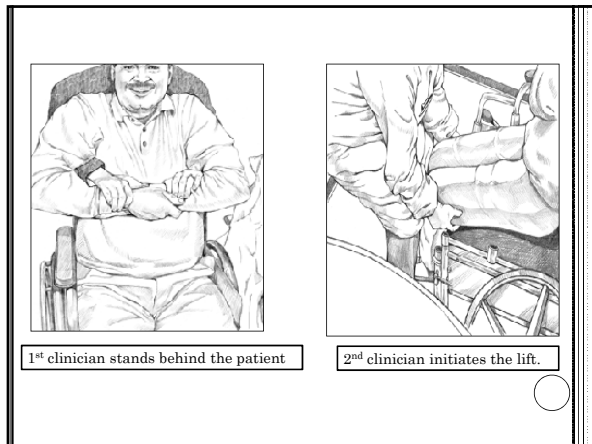
STEP 3: PREPARE THE WHEELCHAIR



- Remove the footrests.
- Position the wheelchair close to and parallel to the dental chair.
- Lock the wheels in place and turn the front casters forward.
- Remove the wheelchair armrest next to the dental chair.
- Check for any special padding or equipment.

STEP 4: PERFORM THE TWO-PERSON TRANSFER

- Support the patient while detaching the safety belt.
- Transfer any special padding or equipment from the wheelchair to the dental chair.
- **First clinician:** Stand behind the patient. Help the patient cross his arms across his chest. Place your arms under the patient's upper arms and grasp his wrists.
- **Second clinician:** Place both hands under the patient's lower thighs. Initiate and lead the lift at a prearranged count (1-2-3-lift).
- **Both clinicians:** Using your leg and arm muscles while bending your back as little as possible, gently lift the patient's torso and legs at the same time.
- Securely position the patient in the dental chair and replace the armrest.

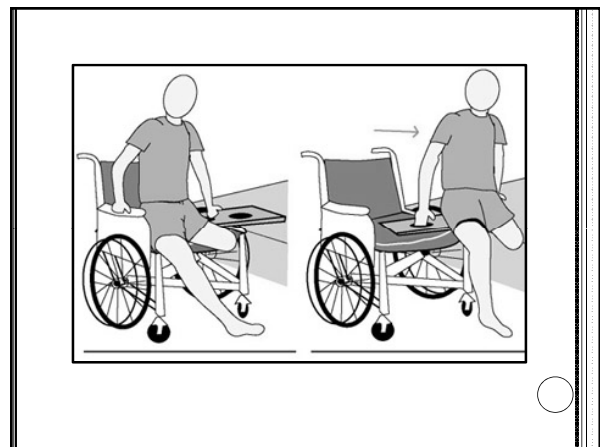


STEP 5: POSITION THE PATIENT AFTER THE TRANSFER

- Center the patient in the dental chair.
- Reposition the special padding and safety belt as needed for the patient's comfort.
- If a urine-collecting device is used, straighten the tubing and place the bag below the level of the bladder.

STEP 6: TRANSFER FROM THE DENTAL CHAIR TO THE WHEELCHAIR

- Position the wheelchair close to and parallel to the dental chair.
- Lock the wheels in place, turn the casters forward, and remove the armrest.
- Raise the dental chair until it is slightly higher than the wheelchair and remove the armrest.
- Transfer any special padding.
- Transfer the patient using the two-person transfer (see step 4).
- Reposition the patient in the wheelchair.
- Attach the safety belt and check the tubing of the urine-collecting device, if there is one, and reposition the bag.
- Replace the armrest and footrests.







Important to understand safe work techniques to prevent musculoskeletal disorders especially low back pain

REFERENCES

- <http://www.nih.gov>
- K Kjølberg et al., Work techniques of nurses in patient transfer task and associations with personal factors. *Scand J Work Environ Health* 2003; 29 (6): 468-477