

 Winnipeg Regional Health Authority / Office régional de la santé de Winnipeg		HOME CARE OPERATIONAL DIRECTIVE	
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Eligibility for Wheelchair Cushions Funded by Winnipeg Regional Health Authority Home Care Program

1.0 PURPOSE

To define client eligibility for wheelchair cushions funded by the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA) Home Care Program.

2.0 BACKGROUND

N/A

3.0 DEFINITIONS

Spinal Cord Injury: An individual with an American Spinal Injury Association Classification (ASIA) who requires a wheelchair. The spinal cord injury (SCI) may be traumatic or non-traumatic.

American Spinal Injury Association Classification (ASIA): The American Spinal Injury Association Impairment Scale is a standardized neurological examination used by the rehabilitation team to assess the sensory and motor levels which were affected by the spinal cord injury.

Wheelchair Cushions: Separate, removable seat intended to perform one or more functions including modifying or accommodating the occupant’s sitting posture, managing tissue integrity and/or providing comfort.

4.0 OPERATIONAL DIRECTIVE

Equipment Eligibility

The Shared Health Provincial Clinical Policy- Home Care - Equipment and Supplies Document Number: 630.105.116 -4.9, states "Individuals with spinal cord injuries are provided with specialized cushions/seating/covers, based on authorization by designated professional Regional Health Authority (RHA) staff and established RHA operating policy."

To be eligible for a wheelchair cushion, the individual is not required to be a client of the WRHA Home Care Program.

The individual must have a spinal cord injury diagnosis from a physician as defined by the ASIA Classification.

WRHA will fund a new wheelchair cushion every 3 years within a reasonable cost limit.

Clinical Eligibility

All requests, whether first time prescriptions or re-assessments, must be completed by an Occupational Therapist (OT) following a comprehensive seating evaluation.

The OT must provide three vendor quotes for the cushion.

The OT can provide one quote if adequate rationale is provided; such as client has been trialing the cushion from a particular vendor.

WRHA Home Care does not recycle/re-issue wheelchair cushions.

WRHA is not responsible for covering the cost of cushion repairs.

Note: Clients are ineligible for equipment if the client:

- Resides outside of the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority catchment.
- Is a child under 18 in care of Child and Family Services.
- Resides in a Personal Care Home.
- Has funding through a third party funder – including but not limited to: Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI), Worker's Compensation Board (WCB).

5.0 RESOURCES

asia-spinalinjury.org

Glossary of Wheelchair Terms and Definitions, Version 1.0 December 2013.

International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 7176-26 (2007): Wheelchairs – Part 26: Vocabulary, International Organization for Standardization, TC-173, SC-1, WG-11.

6.0 CONTACTS

Program Consultant Home Care Equipment, Supplies and Wheelchair Services