
A15: A Problem Solving Model for Wheelchair Seating Assessment

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Learning objectives:

1. Describe the problem solving model presented in the course and list one benefit of its use during a seating assessment
2. List 4 examples of features of a seating system or seating product
3. Be able to write a specific seating objective and describe two equipment features which will address the objective.

Session description:

This course presents a client-centered problem solving model which can guide the thought process during a wheelchair seating assessment, helping practitioners analyze, articulate and then translate a client's problems and potentials into product parameters and solutions. This model is based on the paradigm that the primary purpose of the clinical assessment is not to identify products which are "known" to address certain types of problems, but rather to determine the features that are required to address the health and functional objectives of the individual being assessed. Being able to describe desired equipment features facilitates communication between the clinician and supplier, and leads to a more accurate choice of product. Using this model, the client's **problems and potentials** in all areas are translated into **specific seating objectives**. These objectives then drive the formulation of a **list of properties, or features**, which the team has determined will address the objectives, and the list of properties will in aggregate describe **the end product**. Use of this model helps keep the assessment process client centered rather than product driven, helping to insure the accuracy and appropriateness of final product choices. Used in reverse, the model can be used to analyze the features and potential benefits of commercially available products. Additionally, the model can be used to help delineate team member roles, improve communication during the assessment, document your intervention strategy, assist with writing letters of justification and help to measure outcomes. Participants will be provided with a problem solving

grid which will facilitate the use and integration of this model into their practice.

Content references:

1. Cook, AM; Hussey, SM.(2002) Assistive Technologies: Principles and Practice, 2nd Edition, St. Louis, M.O., Mosby-Year Book, Inc., Chapter 4, pp 108-112
2. Cox, E. (1987). *Dynamic Positioning Treatment: A New Approach to Customized Therapeutic Equipment for the Developmentally Disabled*, pp. 93-96. Tulsa, OK: Christian Publishing Services, Inc.
3. Waugh, K. (2011) *A Problem Solving Model for Wheelchair Seating Assessment*. Proceedings of the 27th International Seating Symposium,(pp 269-270)