



Better health. Best in health care.

Date

RE: Wheelchair Seating and Mobility for

Your family member is currently sitting in a hospital wheelchair seating system which has been set up by the Occupational Therapist. Upon discharge to home, residential care facility, or another setting, your family member will require a wheelchair as a primary means of seating and mobility.

When an individual is properly seated in a wheelchair with the correct specifications and proper cushion, there is greater potential for maintaining a comfortable, upright posture. This promotes participation in group activities and activities of daily living such as eating. An individual who is properly seated is more comfortable and has an improved quality of life, with less potential for developing pressure sores.

A seating assessment is required to determine the most appropriate type of wheelchair, cushion and accessories that will provide the best positioning and comfort. The occupational therapist has completed an assessment of your family member's wheelchair needs and has attached the completed Recommendation Form and a list of Medical Suppliers.

Some Extended Health Benefit Companies (Sun Life, Blue Cross) or other third party funding agencies (Veteran's Affairs Canada, Ministry of Human Resources) partially cover the cost of wheelchairs. Please let the occupational therapist know if this is your situation. Some residential care facilities provide their residents with wheelchair seating systems on a loan basis. Supplies however, are often limited and the appropriateness and fit of the wheelchair is not guaranteed.

An Occupational Therapist is available in the hospital to assist you with the wheelchair acquisition process:

- a) If you are interested in purchasing a new wheelchair seating system, we may be able to arrange for a wheelchair trial with one of the medical suppliers.

OR

- b) If you are interested in acquiring a previously owned, or rental wheelchair, or would like to shop on your own, we are available to review the recommendations with you so that you are better informed when gathering information and making choices.

Please contact me and let me know how you would like to proceed.

Thank you,