

Wheelchair Safety Awareness

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Please complete the above, in the blocks provided, as clearly as possible.

Completing the details in full will ensure that your certificate bears the correct spelling and date.

The date should be the day you finish & must be written in the DD/MM/YYYY format.

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N.B: We are aware that official practice is to use the terms “service users” or “people using this service” to describe those receiving care. We prefer the term “client” and use it throughout our training package.

Key:



worksheet



important

Wheelchair Safety Awareness

Learning outcomes.

- Recognise legislation relating to wheelchairs.
- Identify pre user checks.
- Identify the principles of movement.
- Understand risk assessment TILEE.
- Recognise safety in the use of wheelchairs.

Fundamental standards.

The fundamental standards are the standards by which CQC will inspect social care. The standards are based on the regulations from the Care Act 2014 and CQC have changed the focus for the purposes of inspection.

The fundamental standards are those standards that no care setting must fall below.

The standards are based on five areas as follows:

Safe.	People are protected from abuse and avoidable harm.
Effective.	People's care, treatment and support show quality of life and promote good outcomes, and providers should show evidence to prove it.
Caring.	Care should be person centred involving dignity and respect, and compassion.
Responsive.	Following correct working procedures as agreed by your workplace and as set out in the client's care plan.
Well led.	Management leadership and governance should ensure all of the above happens. Staff training should be recognised and openness and fairness be apparent.

These areas are known as key lines of enquiry or KLOES. Each KLOE has a set of criteria which CQC use to check whether the fundamental standards are being met.

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The fundamental standards are as follows:

Person centred care. Ensuring that those receiving the care are at the centre of all decisions.

Dignity and respect. Providing the client with dignity and respect in all aspects of their care.

Need for consent. Asking the client's permission before carrying out tasks that affect them.

Safe care and treatment. Following correct working procedures as agreed by your workplace and the client's care plan.

Safeguarding service users from abuse. Following agreed working and safeguarding procedures and being aware of signs and symptoms.

Meeting nutritional needs. Being aware of dietary needs, working with the care plan, ensuring clients have the right equipment and conditions to eat.

Cleanliness, safety and suitability of premises and equipment. Carrying out required checks of premises and equipment, implementing cleaning rotas and carrying out safety checks.

Receiving and acting on complaints. Having a complaints policy and procedure in place that is accessible to all and act in accordance with the policy when dealing with complaints.

Good governance. Ensuring that all aspects of the workplace is overseen and policies and procedures are implemented and monitored regularly.

Staffing. Fit and proper persons employed.
Fit and proper person requirement for Directors is followed.

Duty of candour. Relevant information must be volunteered to all persons who have or may have been harmed by the provision of services, whether or not the information has been requested and whether or not a complaint or a report about that provision has been made.

Our Redcrier manuals will provide your staff with training to support attainment of the fundamental standards.

Wheelchair Safety Awareness

Introduction.

You may think a wheelchair is just a chair with wheels, however if within your work role you are required to use it for carrying out client transfers or are required to give wheelchair assistance it will also be classed as work equipment. This means that your employer has a duty to make sure it is maintained correctly and safe to use and provide procedures on how to use it correctly. Your role in maintaining wheelchair safety is to carry out informal risk assessments and follow agreed procedures.

Wheelchairs in your workplace may be used by one client or by several clients at different times, when transferring them to other pieces of equipment. It is important that you know how to check for faults, carry out a TILEE risk assessment to look at the client who will be using it and the environment it is being used in and how to use the wheelchair correctly so that you can assist and support your clients safely.

Sample

Unit One

Why wheelchair safety is important.

There have been a number of recorded incidents involving wheelchairs which have resulted in injury or death. These incidents have been attributed to incorrect use, inadequate training and human error. It should never be assumed that it is unnecessary to provide instruction or training in the use of wheelchairs, as with all moveable objects they can become unstable if not used correctly and need maintaining to ensure they remain safe to use.

The following hazards may be associated with the incorrect use of wheelchairs:

- Manual handling.
- Instability.
- Persons falling from wheelchairs.
- Injury from wrongly fitted accessories.
- Crush injuries.
- Entrapment injuries.
- Environmental hazards.

Case 1.

In 2008 a County Council was fined £83,000 plus £21,000 when a 90 year old woman was killed as a result of poor care and maintenance of the wheelchair she was provided with. The court found that:

“The County Council failed in its duty by exposing day patients to such obvious risk. It is essential to ensure that all equipment is not only regularly checked and maintained but also that staff receive adequate information, instruction and training in the safe use of that equipment.”

Case 2.

In 2011, a Nursing Home was fined £150,000 following a prosecution by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) after a pensioner died at one of their nursing homes.

A seventy-four-year-old died after being strangled by a lap belt when she was left strapped in a wheelchair overnight. It was heard in the Crown court that the nursing home did not properly check on the seventy four year old on the night in question, leaving her in a wheelchair in her room rather than helping her to bed. She was discovered dead the next morning having slipped from the seat of the wheelchair to the floor, with the lap belt strap around her neck.

Wheelchair Safety Awareness

Legislation

The following legislation relates to wheelchair use:

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

The act states that all employers have a duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of their employees. They also have a duty to protect non employees from risks arising out of their work activities.

Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER 1998).

PUWER requires that equipment provided for use at work is:

- Suitable for the intended use.
- Safe for use, maintained in a safe condition and, in certain circumstances, inspected to ensure this remains the case.
- Used only by people who have received adequate information, instruction and training.
- And accompanied by suitable safety measures, eg protective devices, markings, and warnings.

What do the Regulations require you to do?

You must ensure that the work equipment you use meets the requirements of PUWER. In doing so, you should ensure that it is:

- suitable for use, and for the purpose and conditions in which it is used.
- maintained in a safe condition for use so that people's health and safety is not at risk; and
- inspected in certain circumstances to ensure that it is, and continues to be, safe for use.

You should also ensure that risks, created by the use of the equipment, are eliminated where possible or controlled.

The Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities). Regulations 2010.

Regulation 9: Care and welfare of service users.

- 9 - (1) The registered person must take proper steps to ensure that each service user is protected against the risks of receiving care or treatment that is inappropriate or unsafe, by means of:
- (b) the planning and delivery of care and, where appropriate, treatment in such a way as to:
- (i) meet the service user's individual needs.
 - (ii) ensure the welfare and safety of the service user.



Wheelchair Safety Awareness

Regulation 16: Safety, availability and suitability of equipment.

16. - (1) The registered person must make suitable arrangements to protect service users and others who may be at risk from the use of unsafe equipment by ensuring that equipment provided for the purposes of the carrying on of a regulated activity is:

- (a) properly maintained and suitable for its purpose.
- (b) used correctly.

(2) The registered person must ensure that equipment is available in sufficient quantities in order to ensure the safety of service users and meet their assessed needs.

(3) Where equipment is provided to support service users in their day to day living, the registered person must ensure that, as far as reasonably practicable, such equipment promotes the independence and comfort of service users.

Name two pieces of legislation relating to wheelchair use.

What do the PUWER Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations require you to do? Give two examples.

Types of wheelchair.

The general types of wheelchair are as follows - Manual - Self propelled or Attendant propelled, Electric, Child sized, HD / Bariatric. There are other types of wheelchair, many of which are bespoke, to cater for certain conditions and or activities.

Manual wheelchairs are the standard wheelchairs that you will probably have in your workplace. They are often used for transfers from chair to bed or to move from one room to another. They can be self propelled or attendant propelled. Many of them are designed to fold up to be easily transported in a vehicle. Manual wheelchairs come as either standard or active user type.



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A standard wheelchair can't be modified, but an active user wheelchair can be adjusted and adapted to suit the needs of the user. Active user wheelchairs are usually more expensive, but if the user is going to spend a lot of time in it, then it should be a consideration.

Electric wheelchairs are useful for those people who need to use a wheelchair to travel distances or over difficult terrain. They may also be useful for those who have cardiovascular conditions or other conditions that cause fatigue.

Wheelchairs can be made in different sizes including child sized, this is important to maintain safety and ensure proper support for the user.

Bariatric wheelchairs are the same as normal wheelchairs but have extra structural features to accommodate size and weight.

There are advantages and disadvantages to each type of wheelchair, so the choice depends on what you need. For example, electric wheelchairs are good for outdoor use, but they can be heavy and awkward to transport.

It is important to look at the design of the chair as this may have an impact on how it can be used. Look out for:

- large rear wheels, which make wheelchairs easier to manoeuvre.
- wheels positioned further forward on an adjustable axle that need less effort to move the chair.
- lightweight chairs that fold or can be dismantled easily if the wheelchair has to be lifted and transported regularly.
- seat size, angle and style, and position of the foot, back and arm rests - these should all be taken into account when thinking about the comfort of the chair.

If the person you care for needs an attendant propelled wheelchair, it's important to consider your needs if you're going to be taking them out in it a lot. For example, can you move it easily, and would you be able to manoeuvre it in to a vehicle if needed.

Points to consider when choosing a wheelchair are:

- Clients needs.
- Carer safety.
- Environment where the wheelchair will be used.
- Ease of operation.

Wheelchair Safety Awareness

What is the purpose of the wheelchairs used in your workplace?

Can they be adjusted for individuals and what adjustments can you make?

Do you check the wheelchair for faults before use and what are these checks?

If you need to push a wheelchair, do you follow the principles of movement?

Do you carry out a TILEE risk assessment or any risk assessment before use?

These are the factors that need to be considered before use and will be covered by this manual.