

Safe Transport of Patients

Occupational Health
and Safety Services



London Health
Sciences Centre



Children's Hospital
London Health Sciences Centre

What you need to know

- Wayfinding volunteers can push patients in wheelchairs/transport chairs **from** the point of entry **to** Point A (the point of a patient's registration for their appointment), ***if they are comfortable doing so.***
- Beyond Point A, volunteers leave wheelchair/transport chair assistance to Portering.
- Volunteers within outpatient areas help with wheelchairs/transport chairs within the clinic.

PACE



PLAN AHEAD

- Recognize when a patient needs assistance
- Make sure you know the wheelchair/transport chair features
- Prep the chair for patient use- e.g. clean it using standard wiping protocol, brakes on/in locked position when not in use



ASSESS

- Assess if there is potential for a patient to not be compliant (i.e. will not remain in wheelchair)
- Assess own ability to assist (Do you feel comfortable assisting?)



COMMUNICATE

- Good communication with a patient is key- i.e. making sure they remain in the wheelchair once at a destination until help arrives
- If you feel you are not able to safely transport the patient, call Portering
- Speak up when a situation goes beyond the scope of a volunteer role (e.g. patient asks for assistance into the washroom).



EXECUTE

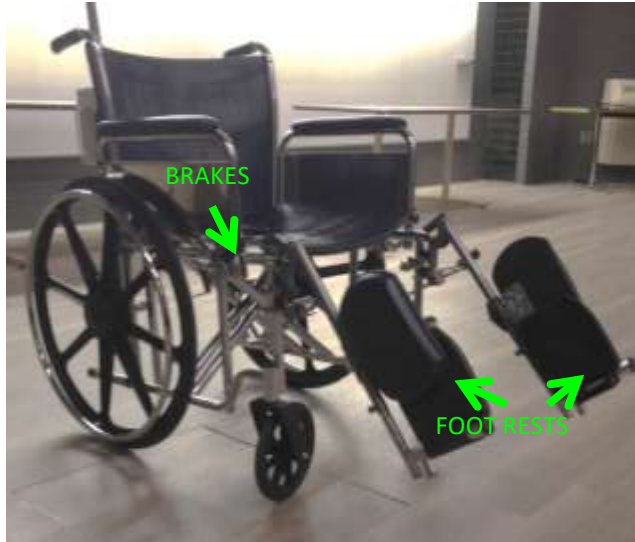
- Use good body mechanics and ergonomics

Good Body Mechanics and Ergonomics

- Body position for pushing a wheelchair/transport chair:
 - Neutral position- elbow height or slightly above
 - Position of strength
 - Natural “S shaped” curve of the spine
- Use both hands when pushing/pulling
- Bend knees when applying brakes/placing the foot on platforms
- Always looking behind you if pulling a wheelchair/transport chair in and/or out of an elevator and using hallway mirrors



WHEELCHAIRS



How to swing out the legs



TRANSPORT CHAIRS



Transport Chair features:

[Prime TC In-service Video](#)

Maintenance

The LHSC Planned and Preventative Maintenance Corporate Policy encompasses the physical infrastructure and all medical equipment, devices and technology to ensure patient and staff safety and compliance to the Accreditation Canada Required Organizational Practice (ROP). The preventative maintenance program includes wheelchairs/transport chairs.

Wheelchairs are collected for cleaning, preventative maintenance inspection, and any repairs that are needed. Wheelchairs are returned within 24 hours and redistributed throughout the hospitals by Portering.

If you find a wheelchair that needs maintenance, call Portering Dispatch (ext. 52014) or leave a note on the wheelchair (it will be picked up when wheelchairs are collected).