

Name of Speaker(s): Theresa F. Berner MOT, OTR/L, ATP

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Session Title: Power Assist Wheels: Clinical Indicators and Documentation for Funding

Abstract/Description of Session: The advancement of technology has allowed individuals many equipment options for mobility. Funding agencies have created strict rules and guidelines that are intended to restrict the abuse of mismatched acquisition of equipment. However, it is common that the rules and guidelines make it so difficult to acquire the best equipment that uninformed professionals get caught in providing the equipment that is easiest to justify rather than the equipment that is the best match for mobility. Examples of technology that can get overlooked are power assist wheels. Power assist wheels can be a successful solution in assisting an individual to maintain their level of participation before having to reconfigure their environment for a full power mobility system. This session will review basic interviewing skills to understand a client's mobility needs as well as review principles of wheelchair set up and wheel access. Best practice with service delivery to ensure consumer buy in and an assessment of the roles of each member of the seating clinic team will allow the audience to understand how to effectively and efficiently utilize all team members. Documentation principles, examples and guidelines will be reviewed as well as suggestions for funding sources outside traditional insurance plans will be covered. All information will be supported by the most recent literature and professionals publications available. Case studies will be used to demonstrate how these techniques can be applied. By the end of the session each participant will have a better understanding of the clinical indicators and documentation for funding so individuals have the best chance at equipment that will meet their needs.

Learning Objectives:

1. List distinct roles of the clinical team and the supplier team that can compliment service delivery.
2. Identify 2 adjustments that can be made for improved propulsion.
3. Name 2 peer reviewed articles that can be incorporated into a letter of justification.

4. Locate 2 or more resources outside of traditional insurance for DME funding.

Speaker Qualifications (brief bio):

Theresa Berner is an occupational therapist and Rehabilitation Team Leader at The Ohio State University Medical Center where she has over 17 years' experience in seating and positioning. She is currently responsible for Assistive Technology center for Rehabilitation Services at OSU Medical Center. She is adjunct faculty at the School of Allied Health at The Ohio State University. She has her certification in Assistive Technology Professional and is very involved in the field. She has completed several presentations on seating and positioning and spinal cord injury locally, nationally, and internationally. Theresa has participated in presentations at, International Seating Symposium in the US and Vancouver Canada, Congress on Spinal Cord injury Medicine, The academy of PM&R, ASIA, RESNA and Posture and Mobility Group in Glasgow Scotland.