

WHEELCHAIR PRESSURE REDISTRIBUTING PADS/CUSHIONS

PURPOSE:

1. To support the bony prominences of the ischial tuberosities.
2. To reduce pressure and prevent skin breakdown.
3. To distribute pressure evenly over the surface of the buttocks.
4. To maintain adequate circulation.
5. To relieve pain and discomfort.

EQUIPMENT:

According to the assessment of the resident's individual needs, obtain one of the following pressure redistribution devices:

1. Foam pad.
 2. Gel pad.
 3. Air pad.
 4. Combination of the above.
 5. Appropriate pad cover.
- DO NOT USE DONUT TYPE OF DEVICES.

PROCEDURE:

1. Place pad on wheelchair and cover with appropriate cover.
2. Assist resident into the wheelchair, using proper transfer techniques.
3. Check to be sure clothing or protective cover is not wrinkles under the resident.
4. Be sure the resident's clothing covers his/her back so that his/her skin is not in contact with the plastic back rest.
5. Cover legs with lap robe if desired by resident. Pad wheelchair arms and leg rests if necessary.
6. Permit the resident to remain in the wheelchair according to the physician's order or as tolerated.
7. Educate/encourage resident to re-position at least every two hours and toilet as necessary.