Description of Issue and Importance

People depend on their wheelchairs. It has to “look good, smell good, work well and fit well”. A poorly fitting wheelchair can lead to loss of independence, injury, illness, pressure sores and death.

Recommended Action and Prevention Strategy

The person needs a “Seating and Mobility” assessment by a therapist who specializes in this type of evaluation if person using the wheelchair:

- Is acting, looking like or communicating that s/he is uncomfortable
- Is developing a pressure area
- Has wheelchair parts that do not work right, are broken or missing or if it is unknown what the part is for or how to use it
- Has not had an evaluation within the last year
- Has had a change in status since last assessment, including clothing size change or weight loss/gain of 10 pounds or more
- Is sitting in a “sling seat, sling back” (standard) wheelchair for MORE than 2 hours in a day.

Related Resources

Wheelchairs series Reminders: “Safety & Maintenance”, “Cleaning”, “Staff Training” “Recognizing Change in Status” and “Responding to Change in Status” Reminders Outreach Training “Wheelchair Evaluation” Outreach Training Calendar and Event Schedule  https://ddrsprovider.fssa.in.gov/Events

Outreach Services

outreach@fssa.in.gov  •  DDRSOutreach.IN.gov

For related reminders and resources, please visit DDRSOutreach.IN.gov.