

Equipment Competencies Baseline Knowledge Sheet

CUSHIONS

Cushions For Riser Recliner Chairs



Pressure redistribution cushions for use in riser recliner chairs which overlay the existing chair seat. They provide an additional layer over the existing upholstery. Some riser recliner cushions only cover just the seat area, some the seat and the back (lumbar), others cover the seat, the back and the leg section. They should secure to the chair with straps easily and safely. Could be made of foam, air or gel.

Considerations prior to issue;

A cushion will not replace the need for the client to move or be moved.

Always consider if the chair has already got pressure redistribution properties built in.

Is the cushion made specifically for use in a riser recliner chair? Can it be anchored securely?

If the cushion is not anchored it would become displaced when the riser function is used.

It is important that the riser recliner cushion does not have a negative impact on the clients seated posture or it may not improve pressure redistribution.

Also consider how the clients` transfers may be affected by the introduction of a cushion and how the cushion may respond to the clients transfer.

Consider the risk level required. Consider the risk level provided by the riser recliner cushion. If the client has a wound what category of wound is it and will the riser recliner cushion suit this level of need.

When should this equipment be used?

Designed to provide pressure redistribution when placed on top of existing seat cushion.

A pressure relieving cushion may be needed to prevent the development of Pressure Ulcers.

For those who spend long stretches of time in a reclining chair and who are considered at risk of developing or who have a wound.

When a cushion will improve seated posture or not negatively impact on clients seated posture or transfers.

Contra – Indications for use

Consider how the materials of the cushion will affect the client. For instance Air may be unstable so could affect the clients stability when moving.

Some air products may need to be topped up with air regularly ie. those products that have to set up by hand inflation and a hand pump.

Any air product will need regular checks to make sure they retain air. A deflated cushion will not offer pressure redistribution.

Foam products may warm the skin.

Immersive products may encourage sweaty skin and moisture build up.

Fitting

Strap system should secure the product to the riser recliner chair.

Straps should prevent slipping.

Cushions should be placed the correct way around.

A cushion should fit with the chairs dimensions

Checks Prior to use

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Read manufacturers guidance.

Adhere to the safe working load restrictions of the product.

Cushion should not compromise the clients` posture or mobility.

Check the condition of the product.

Check inflation of air products is as manufacturer recommends.

Check it is fitted as manufacturer recommends.

Recommendations /instructions for use

Selection should not be based on risk scores alone.

Consider the overall impact of introducing a cushion to seated posture.

Check after introduction that it is suiting the clients` needs. Regularly check skin integrity.

Always check products for being worn and possible bottoming out.

Follow manufacturer`s guidance.

Check that the straps securing the cushion are checked regularly to ensure the cushion does not slip or shift over time.

Maintenance

As per manufacturers guidance.