

The Rise and Fall of Riser Functions on Powered Wheelchairs

Monica Young, Senior Rehabilitation Engineer, Dorset Wheelchair Service

Aims and Objectives

Dorset Wheelchair Service started issuing risers on powered wheelchairs in 2010 for clients with a clinical need and also offering vouchers for clients that do not meet the criteria for provision. This review of the service development will give an overview of some of the findings with regards to risers and the number of repairs required (with respect to the riser only) over the lifetime of the powered wheelchairs.

Our objective for this poster is to share the findings of this review in order to persuade other services to consider issuing risers on powered wheelchairs or vouchers for risers as evidence there is a place for riser provision within Wheelchair Services and to dispel the worries of maintenance costs.

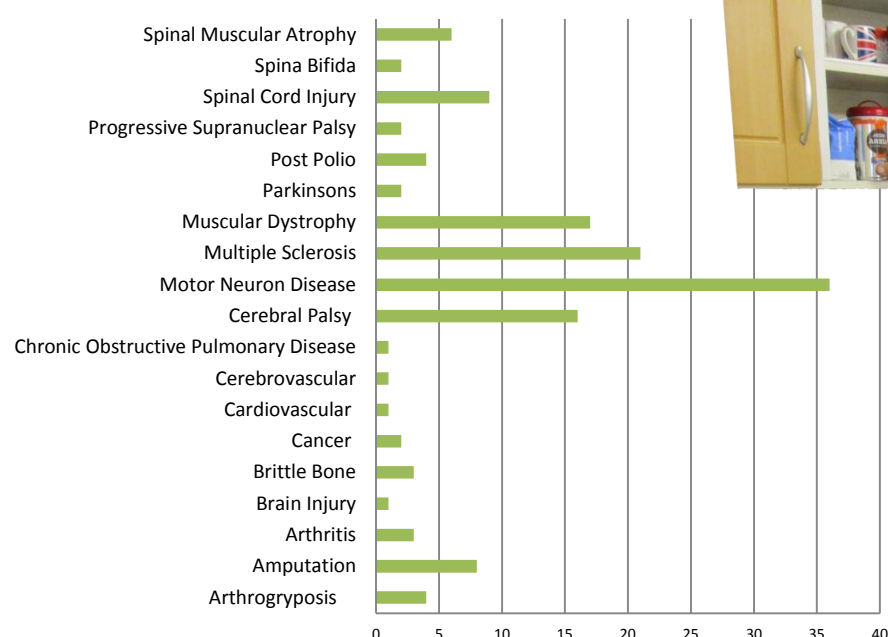
Background

A Criterion for Provision was created to help clinicians establish a clinical need for provision from the service. All cases including Vouchers are decided in Case Conferences by the team. Voucher price includes the upgrade of the controller if necessary, reduction of tilt function if necessary and the VAT cost of these elements. Dorset Wheelchair Service BEST Clinical Database was utilized to collect information on when the powered wheelchair with a riser was first used; whether on a voucher or not; to how many clients the chair was reused subsequently; the model of chair issued; the condition of clients and the number of repairs the riser function has incurred. The case conference spreadsheets provided the information regarding the reason for service provision.

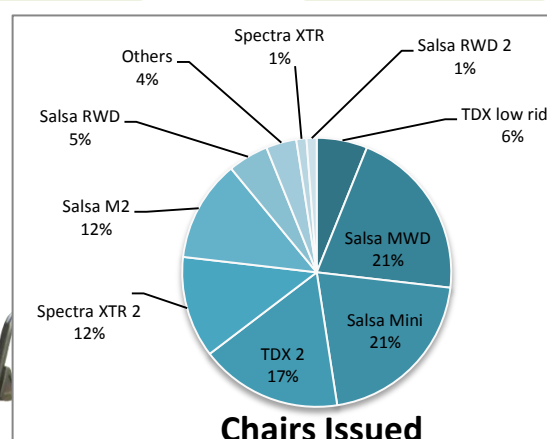
Some Interesting Statistics



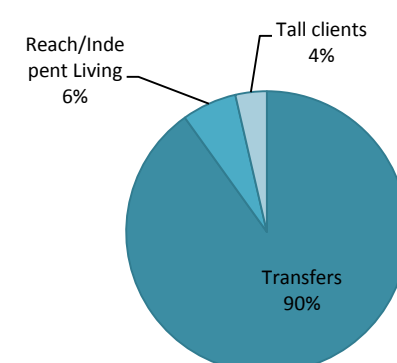
Client Condition



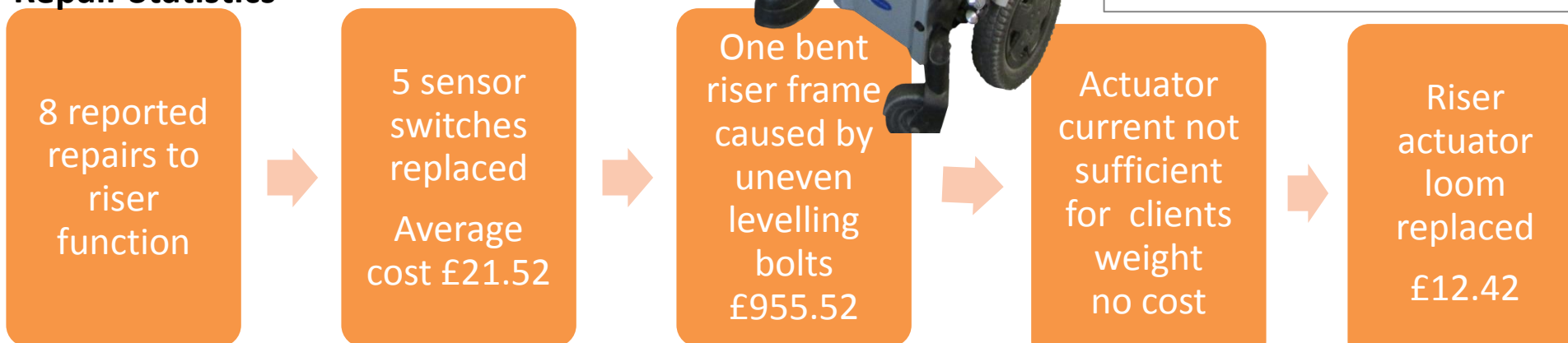
Chairs Issued



Reason for Issue



Repair Statistics



Conclusions

Riser provision has been a great success for the service with significant client benefits and many rating the riser as the most valuable function on the chair. Riser provision has not created a demand on the repair service expected with minimal repairs over the past 10 years.

One unexpected benefit, staff find riser function useful when working on the chair!

References:

- J. Piriano, 'Justify It: Seat Elevation', <https://mobilitymgmt.com/articles/2015/03/01/seat-elevation.aspx> (2015) (accessed 6th March, 2017)
- J. Arva et al. (2009) 'RESNA Position on the Application of Seat-Elevating Devices for Wheelchair Users', *Assistive Technology*, 21:2, p. 69-72
- Department for Transport (2015) 'Mobility Scooters and Powered Wheelchairs on the Road - Some Guidance for Users', https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/411210/Mobility_Vehicle_Users_guidance.pdf (Accessed 4th July, 2017)