

Wheelchair Skills for Clinicians – an Open Secret

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Do you show your client's how to use their wheelchair when you issue it? Do you consider wheelchair skills as part of your assessment and prescription?

Have you ever received any formal wheelchair skills training?

Are you confident to train clients in wheelchair skills such as carrying drinks, moving sideways, negotiating a kerb?

Wheelchair skills in NHS services has been described as an 'open secret' whereby we know we should be using them, but we just don't have the training, time or physical resources to incorporate them into our practice. Few of us even know where to signpost client's to for private/charitable wheelchair skills training.

This presentation explores: what is meant by wheelchair skills in our context, what provision there currently is and the possible solutions for how we meet even the minimum WHO guidelines for wheelchair skills.

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