

## HEALTH CARE INNOVATIONS 2011

Title of Presentation: Its much more than just a wheelchair and a cushion..... lets find a way to influence wheelchair and seating service excellence

Presented by:

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The objectives of this workshop are:

1. To bring together care providers with a common interest and goal for excellence in wheelchair and seating services.
2. To start the development of a group of people/groups interested in influencing a best practice model or standard for wheelchair and seating services.
3. To initiate the movement towards a standard of excellence for wheelchair and seating recognized broadly

These objectives will be met by facilitated discussion where participants will be:

1. Sharing the positives and the challenges experienced when participating in prescribing and/or participating in wheelchair and seating systems services from all levels
2. Discussing the possibility of wheelchair and seating moving towards advanced/best practice, practice standards etc.
3. Brainstorm how to move forward towards quality and priority standards and expectations at all levels for wheelchair and seating

For someone who is dependent on a wheelchair for basic mobility - They can spend up to 16 hours in a wheelchair and seating system. This system can have a great and wide impact on the user and health care system, from skin health, physical health, mental health and a financial perspective. Is the importance of this equipment reflected in the priority level it is given? How many millions of dollars are being spent in Ontario on wheelchair and seating annually through ADP funding? How much money is being spent on wound care related inappropriate seating? How much time and support is given to the education and support of high standard wheelchair and seating delivery from employers, universities, and government? How often have we heard it's just a wheelchair, it's just a cushion....? How come what currently guides our practice is either very general or funding agency based? Should we not direct what is needed and best for our clients? Shouldn't there be more standards and guidelines to how to provide services? Wheelchairs and Seating is not simple: it has significant health implications physical and emotional. It is expensive. Why is the general perception of wheelchair and seating so simple. We need to influence the perception and take responsibility in changing this perspective.

This workshop is an opportunity for clinicians, manufacturers, and sales representatives to influence the best for clients with wheelchair and seating needs. It will be a time to discuss what level of importance wheelchair and seating should be given and why, and to discuss how to promote this status.