

Acquired Brain Injury: Solving the Wheeled Mobility Puzzle

Course Synopsis

Functional mobility following an Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) varies significantly from person to person. While there is limited evidence available on the topic of wheeled mobility and ABI, it is clear that independent mobility is a predictor of quality of life post ABI. The team must maximize safe and efficient mobility, while considering the cognitive, visual, fatigue, and postural factors often present in this population. This course will discuss wheeled mobility post ABI including common postural impairments, as well as safety and cognitive considerations. Manual wheelchair configuration for optimizing independent mobility in this population will be reviewed, including considerations for power mobility options when an optimized manual mobility device is not effective or functional for a client. Factors for determining safe and independent use of power mobility will be discussed including training strategies to maximize success when working with individuals with cognitive and visual deficits. Case examples will be included to demonstrate unique solutions to complex scenarios. Participants will leave the course with immediately applicable strategies for maximizing independence in functional mobility post ABI.

Speaker Bio

Catherine Sweeney, PT, ATP/SMS is currently a Regional Clinical Education Manager for Permobil. She graduated from Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI in 1990, and has extensive clinical experience in acute care, acute rehabilitation, and out-patient settings with a primary focus on neurologic rehabilitation. Prior to joining the Permobil team in September of 2019, Catherine worked at Providence St. Joseph Medical Center in Portland, Oregon for 24 years. She was instrumental in the development of the wheelchair seating clinic program, serving adults with mobility and positional needs. Catherine's skill set includes expert skill level in wheelchair seating and positioning interventions for adults, applying clinical best practice guidelines to achieve appropriate wheelchair seating outcomes for her clients. She was the lead clinical education resource for wheelchair seating interventions for Providence regional clinical settings in Oregon. Catherine is a RESNA certified Assistive Technology Professional (ATP) and Seating and Mobility Specialist (SMS). Now with Permobil, she is presenting clinical education programs to therapists and DME providers regarding seating, mobility, and pressure ulcer prevention concepts to advance the skill level of her audience with the focus on improving clinical outcomes for clients. Catherine is an active member of RESNA and served for two years as co-chair of the PT PSG.

Financial Disclosures: Ms. Sweeney does not receive an honorarium for this course.

Nonfinancial disclosure:

By the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. List three common functional limitations that occur following Acquired Brain Injury (ABI)
2. Describe two considerations when configuring a manual wheelchair for efficient propulsion and postural support following ABI
3. Discuss two potential training techniques to allow for initiation of power mobility post-CVA.

This course is an Introductory Level, with content focus in Occupational Therapy Process, Intervention.

Completion of this course is recognized by the OT Oregon Licensing Board as 1.5 contact hours.



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