

For further details, please call SelfCare at 604-990-9422 (North Shore) or 604-872-5800 (Vancouver) or 604-741-9920 (Sechelt)

**Objective:** To get as close to normal posture while maintaining client comfort, skin integrity, stability and function.

## Primary Considerations:

- Comfort
- Skin Breakdown or potential for breakdown
- Stability and positioning
- Incontinence
- Weight capacity
- Maximizing function and independence

## Secondary Considerations:

- Maintenance – checking air inflation, kneading fluid gel around
- Consideration for future functional status
- Cost
- Weight of Cushion

Keep in mind of any deformities, contractures, or other seating issues that need to be addressed. For example:

- Pelvic Obliquity
- Rotation
- Leg Discrepancy
- Sliding/Sacral Sitting

Properties of cushions that help to achieve good positioning are:

- Leg channels
- Pommel
- Ischial well
- Obliquity/fluid pads
- Air lock systems
- Hip guide

Foam Considerations:

- Foam will break down – will need to be replaced after two years
- Different densities of foam for skin protection
- Heat
- Positioning
- Can be molded or carved

Gel Considerations:

- Immersion into gel
- Fluid gel, Jay gel vs. solid gel
- Transfer/shearing

Air Considerations:

- Maintenance – inflation, hand check, repair
- Stability when sitting or transferring

Other Considerations:

- Cover – is it incontinent? Does it offer breathability, protection from shear/friction?
- Drop Bases – may help achieve desired Seat to Floor height, but does it make the chair too heavy for the client to propel or more complicated to fold?
- Rigidizers – for a level seating surface – reduces hammocking
- Seatbelts for positioning – eg: padded two and four point belts
- Hip Guides