

Wheelchair Users – Cushion/Sling Safety

E-Zec Medical believes it is important to keep in touch with its' valued staff.

Updated
Nov 2021

Introduction:

E-zec Medical Transport Ltd always looks at developing our workforce and ensuring that any issues that have risen are communicated to all staff so that we can support and drive person-centered approaches to wellbeing of our service users and prevent incidents that might affect their safe transport.

Issue:

During complying the monthly quality reports for all the contracts, it has been highlighted that we have had a number of wheelchair users that during their transportation have slid out of their wheelchair. Some of the incidents have been identified that the patient has undone their own safety belts – Ensure that dementia patients are closely monitored at all times – Ensure that patients are told that they must wear their restraining belts at all times.

Wheelchair cushion/Hoist Slings

A number has been attributed to patients sliding off their wheelchair because they have been sat on a Cushion or Cushions and the Cushion has become dislodged. Or still they are sat on the hoist sling; **Only hoist slings that are risked assess as satisfactory for the patient to remain sat on during ambulance transport can be left under the patient.**

On investigation:

Cushions were upside down – The manufactures always give the service user instruction on which way the cushion should be placed – some have Velcro that should be placed Velcro side down and are held in place by the Velcro strip on the wheelchair seat. Others have a non-slip surface that sits on the chair seat – Most cushions are wipeable at patient contact point – If a patient uses two cushions ensure that they are suitable to be transported together – it might be necessary to remove one while transporting the patient if they can slide on each other.

Remove
Slings if
not safe

Check
Cushion

Use Lap
Belt

Safety Checks

Check that wheelchair
is Crash Tested



Ensure that the cushion
is secure and correctly
fitted



Has sling been risked
assess for safe
ambulance transport?



Ensure that patient and
wheelchair is secured
by the correct securing
straps and lap belt.



DOUBLE CHECK



All see Bulletin - Securing Wheelchairs in Vehicles CG-Bul-35