

Wheelchair Foot Plates (Rest Plates)

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

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Fact 1 - Why is the wheelchair footrest so important?

Proper support of the feet is essential to ensure the comfort of the wheelchair user. Improper use, supply or fitting of the wheelchair footrest can lead to lower back pain and excessive pressure on the buttocks or lower thigh area as well as problems with digestion where angles between torso and upper leg are too acute. Each of these problems can be attributed to the impact of incorrect posture being supported by the misuse.

Fact 2 – Prevent Injury to patient

Scenario – An E-zec crew were requested to collect a patient from the discharge lounge, the patient was booked as a TIOC1 +1 and was travelling in their own wheelchair. The patient was ready when the crew arrived but did not have one of their footplates in the deployed position and was resting their leg on the footplate.

The carer told the crew that this was fine and this was the norm for the patient who always travelled like this. The crew insisted on the patient placing their foot on the footplate before conveying the patient. Whilst wheeling the patient the patient's foot slipped off the footplate, dragged on the floor and became trapped underneath the footplate. This resulted in a fracture to the patient's ankle for which they spend 3 days in hospital.

'If foot rests have been removed it is likely the patient's feet/legs could become trapped under the chair. The only exception to removal of foot rests is where a patient has no lower limbs.' - PTS-SOP-09 Carriage of Wheelchair Patients -

Incidents do happen so can all staff ensure that they are fully vigilant. In this case, the crew did the correct thing by using the foot plate but E-zec would just like to reiterate the importance of ensuring patients in wheelchairs always have footplates and that they are used. Patient must always be monitored during any patient transportation procedure.

Checks to be done

Tyres

Wheels

Spokes

Hand rims

Brakes

Footrests

Arm rests/leg rests

Push handle grips.

Frame



PTS-SOP-09 Carriage of Wheelchair Patients available on the HUB