

MOBILITY DEVICES

Definition:

Ambulatory, assistive, or mobility devices are any devices that are used to assist in movement, fall reduction, distribution of weight, or to give support when moving from one place to another (NLM, 2015).

Wheelchair



Motorized scooter



Cane



Walker



Sitting walker



Crutches





Choosing a Mobility Device:

The choice of which mobility device to use is based on a variety of factors. A doctor will assess each individual's condition and recommend which device will be best suited for their particular needs. Assistive devices may be temporary or permanent. Some injuries or surgical procedures may leave the patient in need of an assistive device during the recovery period. On the other hand, the aging populations or individuals with certain diseases that affect mobility may need assistive devices for the long term. Doctors may work with other healthcare professionals, such as a physical and occupational therapists, to make sure that the best device is chosen for each individual (NLM, 2015).

Safety:

Once the proper type of device is selected, it will be fitted to the individual's height and posture. A proper fit ensures that the mobility device will be effective and safe. Physical and occupational

therapists will work with patients to demonstrate the proper way to use the device. It is important to regularly check the device to make sure it is working and in good condition (Mayo Clinic, 2015).

Public Accommodations and Commercial Facilities:

In regulation with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), all public and commercial facilities should be able to accommodate a variety of mobility devices (DJ, 2014).

Disclaimer:

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REFERENCES

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