A Wheelchair is NOT Just a Wheelchair

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Outline

• What is a mobility device?
• Are all wheelchairs alike?
• Wheelchair Specifics
  – Dimensions
  – Anatomy
  – Styles
  – Manual versus power
• Special Considerations
• Hands On
Mobility Devices

- Cane
- Walker
- Crutches – axillary, forearm
- Manual wheelchair
- Power wheelchair
- Scooter
- Considerations for children - strollers
Mobility devices are individualized

- Consider the individual, their disability and their wheelchair
- Not all wheelchairs are created equal
- We’ll focus more on wheelchairs and scooters because they tend to be the larger mobility device and the most difficult to manage through obstacles
Cane/Walker

- To assist with ambulation/walking
- Due to weakness, pain, endurance, limited balance, etc.
- The *standard* width of a walking mobility device is 0.9 m or ~3 feet.
Wheelchair

- Wheelchairs range in size, both width-wise and length-wise.
- From a children’s chair which could be 10”w to a bariatric chair which could be 36+”w. This is the seat width and not the overall width.
- Building Standards are based on a standard 18” which is 26”wide from handrim to handrim and has a turning radius of ~ 5 feet.
Manual Wheelchair Styles

- Standard manual wheelchair - folding
- Ultralight manual wheelchair - rigid
- Reclining wheelchair
- Tilt in space wheelchair
- Bariatric manual chair
- self propelled, pushed, transport
- propel with hands, foot and hand, feet only
Power Wheelchair Styles

- Rear wheel drive
- Front wheel drive
- Center/mid wheel drive
- Power tilt and recline
- Control with hands, alternative control, ECUs
Scooters

- For people who have limited walking tolerance and good sitting balance
- Three wheel
- Four Wheel
Special Considerations

eg. bariatric
People have to do more than just wheel in their wheelchairs...
Think beyond the norms...
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