

---

**NATIONAL WHEELCHAIR MANAGERS FORUM**

**GUIDELINES FOR  
ACCREDITED WHEELCHAIR  
PRESCRIBERS COURSE**

---

---

[Introduction .....3](#)

[Minimum Elements To Be Covered .....4](#)

[Local Induction Training .....4](#)

[Background Information .....5](#)

---

## **Introduction**

The National Wheelchair Manager's Forum has for some time been discussing the benefits of supporting a transferable accreditation of wheelchair prescribers, which would highlight an appropriate skill level examined to a national standard.

The proposals detailed below highlight the minimum element to be covered as part of an accredited prescriber course. It is intended that these elements would be standard on any accreditation course run throughout the country but would be supplemented with local additions to support local practice.

This would lead to a transferable certificate of accreditation, which would then enable healthcare professionals moving around the country to register with other local wheelchair centres and demonstrate that they had already been trained to an agreed standard. They would then almost certainly need to undertake local induction training to supplement their existing knowledge.

The course content is aimed at healthcare professionals to support the referral of the prescription process. It has been arrived at by building on information provided by wheelchair services throughout the country prior to the meeting.

It is proposed that these guidelines are issued for discussion and will then be presented at the next National Wheelchair Manager's Forum to be held in Newcastle early in February 2003 for ratification.

Any comments on the contents of this paper should be forwarded to Henry Lumley by e-mail at: [henry.lumley@north-bristol.swest.nhs.uk](mailto:henry.lumley@north-bristol.swest.nhs.uk)

### Other contacts:

Harriet Beynon	–	harriet.beynon@brentpct.nhs.uk
Sam Brinn	–	Sam.Brinn@doh.gsi.gov.uk
Alan Lynch	–	alan.lynch@doh.gsi.gov.uk
Krys Jarvis	-	Krys.Jarvis@shropcomm.wmids.nhs.uk

---

## **Minimum Elements to be Covered**

1. Basic principles of good seating and posture.
2. How to correctly seat a patient and how to measure for a wheelchair.
3. Basic principles of pressure care/ redistribution.
4. External considerations impacting on wheelchair assessment e.g. carer needs, transportability, environment effects and function.
5. Knowledge and understanding of compromises arising from the assessment process, including risk management and also controls assurance standards.
6. Knowledge on how different types of wheelchairs and seating benefit users and carers.

On passing the course, attendants will receive a certificate and accreditation, which will be transferable across wheelchair services. Continued accreditation will depend on the results of future assessment audits.

## **Local Induction Training**

1. Overview of local wheelchair and seating service, including prescription responsibilities.
2. Criteria and information on provision within their service, e.g. equipment available.
3. Prioritisation, as applied locally.
4. Information on how to complete referrals and assessments.
5. Usage of the wheelchair voucher scheme, if appropriate.

- 
6. Information on local delivery and maintenance and how to access these services.

## **Background Information**

1. Service should consider appropriate audit techniques to monitor the assessments of the people who have been accredited under these courses.
2. Services should consider when it would be appropriate to offer refresher training for changes in assessment protocols, or when audit checks reveal any shortcomings in individual assessments.
3. Services should maintain records of attendants on courses to assist transferability and update training.
4. Services may be eligible for CPD points on suitably organised courses. Local education and training confederations may provide funding to assist in the running of courses.
5. On completion of the course, attendants must be tested on each of the course core elements, listed 1-6. This may take the form of a specifically structured test or suitable case study designed to demonstrate understanding of each of the points.