

# TILT IN SPACE WHEELCHAIRS:

## CRITERIA, CLINICAL JUSTIFICATION AND FUNCTIONAL BENEFITS

| <b>CRITERIA / BENEFIT</b>                                                       | <b>CLINICAL JUSTIFICATION AND FUNCTIONAL BENEFITS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| <b>PRESSURE RELIEF</b><br>Skin Breakdown<br>Decreased Skin Integrity            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Facilitates position changes associated with pressure relief for individuals with limited range of motion</li> <li>- Provides a change in position for those who cannot independently shift their weight</li> <li>- Tilting the seating surface allows for repositioning which shifts the weight and pressure away from the critical areas under the pelvis</li> <li>- Proper repositioning improves blood flow, oxygenation and retention of the skin tissue which is vital for maintaining skin integrity</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>POSITIONING</b><br>Decreased Postural Control<br>Decreased Head/Neck Control | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Posterior tilt can reduce the effects of gravity on the trunk and upper body, which provides a more functional and proper upright posture</li> <li>- Facilitates more functional use of the upper extremities</li> <li>- Facilitates safe effective positioning of the patient following transfer allowing adjustment of posture from the tilted position</li> <li>- Eliminates *shear displacement (sliding out of position) during position changes</li> <li>- Posterior tilt effectively opens the diaphragm allowing for greater expansion of the lungs resulting in improved oxygenation, blood flow and organ function</li> <li>- Facilitates positioning for comfort, pain management and/or pain relief</li> </ul> |
| <b>ENDURANCE</b><br>Function<br>Mobility Related Activities of Daily Living     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proper positioning and weight distribution increases sitting tolerance throughout the course of the day</li> <li>- Positioning the patient in an action ready position improving the patient's ability to socialize and engage in their surroundings</li> <li>- Increase endurance for completion of activities of daily living by placing the patient in an action ready position</li> <li>- Provides proper seating alignment decreasing patient fatigue and postural deviations</li> <li>- Posterior tilt enhances visual orientation, speech, alertness and arousal</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>MEDICAL FUNCTIONS</b><br>Respiratory<br>Digestive<br>Physiological           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Obtaining proper posture through the use of tilt allows for improved function of the respiratory system</li> <li>- Posterior tilt facilitates proper digestion and decreases risk of aspiration and other complications of the GI Tract</li> <li>- Improves physiological processes such as *orthostatic hypotension, respiration and bowel and bladder function</li> <li>- Manages symptoms related to *edema (swelling) of the extremities</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>CAREGIVER BENEFITS</b>                                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Aids in completion of activities of daily living; feeding, bathing and toileting needs</li> <li>- Allows for frequent repositioning of individuals throughout the day</li> <li>- Improved seating comfort allows for fewer transfers during the course of the day</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |