

ISSUED BY: Accessibility Working Group
AUTHORIZED BY: Senior Management
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SUBJECT: **Personal Assistive Devices**

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VALUE STATEMENT

Health Sciences North is committed to uphold an individual's right to access places of public accommodation as defined by the Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2005, and the Accessibility Standard for Customer Service Ontario Regulation 429-07 and the Integrated Accessibility Standards Ontario Regulation 191/11.

POLICY

Health Sciences North will make every reasonable effort to ensure that all public areas of the hospital will be accessible regardless of personal assistive devices. Personal assistive devices (PAD) include a broad range of products, including but not limited to wheelchairs, walkers, white canes, oxygen tanks, portable communication boards and electronic communication devices. The Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 mandates that persons with disabilities who require the use of assistive devices to use or benefit from the services of the hospital must be allowed to use them or have other measures made available to them.

When a patient, visitor, employee or medical staff member presents with one or more personal assistive devices, they are able to access all public areas of the hospital permitted to others. There may be areas or situations identified when the use of the personal assistive device is not compatible with the protocol, procedure, circumstances, physical space available or equipment required to provide the service. In these circumstances collaboration will occur with the user of the personal assistive device to achieve an optimal solution.

DEFINITIONS:

Disability:

The Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 defines a disability as follows;

- Any degree of physical disability, infirmity, malformation or disfigurement that is caused by bodily injury, birth defect or illness (i.e., diabetes mellitus, epilepsy, brain injury, any degree of paralysis, amputation, lack of physical co-ordination, blindness/visual impediment, deafness/hearing impediment, muteness/speech
- impediment or physical reliance on a guide dog/other animal or on a wheelchair/other medical appliance/device
- A condition of mental impairment or a developmental disability
- A learning disability, a dysfunction in one or more of the processes involved in understanding or using symbols or spoken language
- A mental disorder
- An injury or disability for which benefits were claimed or received under the insurance plan established under the Workplace Safety & Insurance Act, 1997

Personal Assistive Devices:

As defined by Ontario Regulation 429/07 and the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, Personal Assistive Devices are used by persons with disabilities. They include a broad range of products such as wheelchairs, walkers, white canes, oxygen tanks, portable communication boards, and electronic communication devices.

NOTE

Personal Assistive Device(s) will remain with the patient at ALL times except where there is a requirement for exclusion of said device:

- Due to infection control risk
- Risk of harm to the device and / or individuals

PROCEDURE

1. PAD's must be clearly identified as belonging to their owner.
2. Signage may be used to alert others of the use of a PAD with the user's permission
3. Patients who require the use of personal assistive devices should be identified prior to or on admission.
4. Patient's requiring PAD's while in hospital are to be provided with the following information either during the pre-admission process or otherwise at the earliest opportunity;
 - The care and maintenance of the PAD is the responsibility of the individual who uses the device.
 - A family member, friend or volunteer may be necessary to assist with the care and use of the PAD depending on the circumstances.
5. If a patient is required to be moved somewhere in the hospital where the use or presence of the PAD would be inappropriate or unwise, family will be asked to take the device home until such time as it may be used again.
5. Any adverse events resulting from the use or misuse of the PAD are to be reported on the Employee Incident Reporting System and/or the Online Incident Reporting System if either a patient or visitor is involved.
6. It is the responsibility of the person using the PAD to ensure it is safe to use and that using it will not endanger others.
7. If a concern is raised regarding the unsafe use of the PAD it must be addressed immediately, either by the patient if they are capable of doing so or by others in removing or replacing the PAD.
8. Staff will attempt to keep the PAD accessible to the user whenever possible.
9. PAD's that require the use of electrical power must be checked by the hospital's building service staff prior to use to ensure they meet CSA standards.
10. Any patient admitted to HSN, who require the use of a Power Mobility Device (PMD) with a battery charger, must follow several safety requirements as per the Electric Wheelchair (Power Mobility Device) Safety Policy – January 17, 2007.

STAKEHOLDRES

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