

## CONSIDERATIONS WHEN CHOOSING A MANUAL WHEELCHAIR

There are several different categories of manual wheelchairs to choose from, depending on an individual's needs, body type, activity level, and lifestyle. For example, a basic transport chair is designed to be pushed by a companion. They are light, compact, and inexpensive and ideal for occasional use and short trips. Some manual wheelchair models tilt and recline for repositioning, while large, heavy-duty chairs work best for larger individuals. Lightweight and ultra-lightweight chairs made from aluminum and titanium offer active, full-time wheelchair users ease of transport, style, and customized fit. Some people prefer folding models, while others prefer the more efficient performance of a rigid frame. As with power wheelchairs, the accessories, weight, and size needed are usually determined during a seating evaluation with a physical therapist. During this clinical evaluation, the consumer has an opportunity to try different models and components that best meet their needs.

After you complete this self assessment use your answers to look at the inventory to see which manual wheelchair best meets your needs.

### Types of Manual Wheelchairs

- Transport Wheelchair (companion push)
- Folding Wheelchair (self push)
- Rigid Frame Wheelchairs (both self and companion push)
- Ultra light wheelchairs (self push)
- Strollers / Jogger-type Strollers (companion push)

## MANUAL WHEELCHAIR QUESTIONS

1. Is the intended user a child or adult?
  - Child
  - Adult
2. Do you currently use a manual wheelchair?
  - Yes (if known, please indicate type) \_\_\_\_\_
  - No (if no, skip to question # 10)
3. Is there a manufacturer sticker present?
  - Yes (make, model) \_\_\_\_\_
  - No
4. Why is your current manual wheelchair no longer usable for you (flat tires, too small/big, etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What did/didn't you like about your manual wheelchair? (Do you want to duplicate what you have or need additional features?) \_\_\_\_\_

6. Current wheelchair seat width?  
Seat Width\_\_\_\_\_inches
7. Current seat depth?  
Seat Depth\_\_\_\_\_inches
8. Current seat to floor height?  
Seat to Floor\_\_\_\_\_inches
9. Current seat surface to top of back height?  
Seat to Floor\_\_\_\_\_inches
10. User's approximate height and weight?  
Height\_\_\_\_\_ Weight\_\_\_\_\_
11. Do you want/need a folding or a rigid frame wheelchair?  
 Folding  
 Rigid
12. Do you want/need tilt and/or recline seating function?  
 Tilt  
 Recline
13. Do you have an armrest preference: swing-away, adjustable height?  
 Swing-Away  
 Adjustable Height  
 None
14. Do you want/need a headrest?  
 Yes  
 No
15. Do you want/need a tray?  
 Yes  
 No

16. Do you want/need metal or coated push rims?

- Metal
- Coated

17. Do you want/need quick-release axles?

- Yes
- No

18. Do you have a leg rest preference: elevating, swing-away?

- Elevating
- Swing-Away
- Fixed

19. Footrests-angle adjustable?

- Yes
- No

20. Do you want/need calf pads?

- Yes
- No

21. Do you want/need a seatbelt?

- Yes
- No

22. Do you want/need anti-tippers?

- Yes
- No

23. Do you prefer a tension adjustable back or fixed padded back?

- Tension Adjustable
- Fixed Padded

24. Do you prefer push brakes or pull to lock?

- Push
- Pull
- No Preference

25. Do you prefer pneumatic or solid rear tires?

- Pneumatic
- Solid
- No Preference

26. Do you want/need power assist function?

- Yes
- No

27. Do you want/need a transit, tie-down option?

- Yes
- No