Acquired Brain Injury: Meeting Wheeled Mobility Needs

Length: 2 Hours

Description:
Functional mobility following an Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) varies significantly from person to person. The role of the clinical team, in conjunction with the client and family, is to establish a means of mobility that enhances independence and function. Often, this results in the need for a wheeled mobility device. While there is limited evidence available on the topic of wheeled mobility and ABI, it is clear that independent mobility is a predictor of quality of life post ABI. The team must maximize safe and efficient mobility, while considering the cognitive, visual, fatigue, and postural factors often present in this population.

This course will discuss wheeled mobility post ABI including common postural impairments, as well as safety and cognitive considerations. Manual wheelchair configuration for optimizing independent mobility in this population will be reviewed. Additionally, this course will discuss the necessity of introducing power assist and powered mobility options when an optimized manual mobility device is not efficient or functional for a client. Factors for determining safe and independent use of power mobility will be discussed including training strategies to maximize success when working with individuals with cognitive and visual deficits. Participants will leave the course with immediately applicable strategies for maximizing independence in functional mobility post ABI.

Objectives:
1. Describe three common functional limitations that occur following Acquired Brain Injury (ABI)
2. Identify three common postural concerns in individuals with ABI
3. Describe at least two considerations when configuring a manual wheelchair for efficient propulsion and postural support following ABI
4. State three current perceptions related to prescribing power mobility for people with ABI, including Cerebral Vascular Accidents (CVA) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
5. Discuss two potential training techniques to allow for initiation of power mobility post-CVA

**Instructional level:** Beginner

**Credits:** 2.0 CCU / 0.2 CEU

TPTA approval pending
TOTA approval pending

**Presenter:**

Curt Merring OTR, MOT

Mr. Merring received both his undergraduate psychology degree and masters in occupational therapy at the University of Pittsburgh. While at university he was involved in research on multiple studies dealing with psychosocial disorders, wheelchair seating, and neurological recovery of the upper extremity for stroke patients. As an occupational therapist and researcher for the past 9 years he was responsible for treating and investigating spinal cord injury and stroke. This included being awarded multiple small grants and coordinating research projects between the clinic and local universities. Curtis has also worked as a Director of Therapy Services in the geriatric setting including opening and managing rehabilitation departments at multiple locations. During his time as a director he developed a program called “Seating System Management in Skilled Nursing Facilities and Long Term Care”, which was a continuing education course he taught to facilities in both Texas and California. The goal of the course was to improve the seating systems of a very underserved population. Curtis is currently a clinical education manager for Permobil, who provides education and product support for Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana.