

Early vs. Late Intervention with Custom Molded Seating

Length: 2 Hours

Description:

Historically, custom molded seating has often been relegated to last ditch efforts to preserve an individual's ability to sit. Typical users are often dependent sitters with multiple disabilities, significant postural deviations and associated unique body shapes. In many instances the physical characteristics of traditional custom seating has been deemed appropriate for this population, but frequently proved to be too heavy, bulky, and restrictive to be considered for more active and functional users, and was rarely justified in the realm of early seating intervention. Recent advances in custom molded seating based on orthotic and prosthetic principles that incorporating lighter, breathable and less bulky materials has significantly expanded the potential for custom seating application across a broader range of needs, and as a potential option for early intervention.

This workshop brings attention and direction to this potential by presenting unique seating strategies for early custom seating intervention. It is not just about a custom shaped seat and back, but about correct orientation of the seating for a constructive relationship with gravity, and optimal wheelchair configuration and seating interface to maximize the potential for mobility, function, and skin care. Client assessment, simulation, and fitting strategies will be discussed as well as documentation of need.

Objectives:

1. Describe three potential evaluation findings that could help build justification for early intervention with custom seating.
2. Explain 2 common errors often seen with indirect custom molded simulation and how to overcome them.
3. Discuss how seating shape and orientation work together to optimize postural alignment and postural tendencies.
4. List 3 advantages of orthotic based over traditional custom molded seating options.

Instructional Level: Intermediate to Advanced

Credits: 2.0 CCU / 0.2 CEU

TPTA approval pending

TOTA approval pending

Presenter:

Rich Salm, ATP, Director of Sales and Education at Ride Designs

Rich began his career in the durable medical equipment industry in 1983 and has been involved with complex rehab technology (CRT) since 1991. His long career has spanned working for small mom and pop shops, owning and operating his own CRT company, and sales leadership roles in both Numotion and NSM. Along the way, he has served on the RESNA Professional

Standards board and as NRRTS Director as well as the Colorado Medicaid DME Advisory Committee. He has also been a committed and successful advocate in policy and legislation for CRT and in 2014, lead efforts to successfully pass a CRT bill in Colorado. In his spare time, Rich enjoys spending time with his wife and stepdaughter, playing guitar, salsa dancing, cycling and roasting coffee.