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Permobil Academy

Clinical Learning Pathways 2024





PERMOBIL CLINICAL PATHWAYS

The Permobil Pathways were designed by experienced clinicians for clinicians. As a team, we believe that these courses will provide you with the ideal level of education based on your experience and clinical practice.

Whilst each course is open to all, it is recommended that you choose a stream of courses and complete these prior to moving up to the next level as the knowledge and skills build upon each other.

There are three pathways for learning: Green, Blue and Gold.

The Green pathway is designed for new graduates or therapists who have not prescribed wheelchairs and seating on a regular basis. These courses will build your assessment and prescription skills and give you a solid foundation.

The Blue pathway is designed for therapists who prescribe wheelchairs and seating on a semi-regular basis and feel as though they have their foundation skills and are seeking to upskill and learn about wheelchairs and seating in further detail and apply concepts to more complex users.

Finally, the Gold pathway is designed for our most experienced therapists who prescribe wheelchairs and seating on a regular basis and are seeking specific education on topics at a highly detailed level.

We are so excited to bring you these new courses and hope that you get a lot out of them! Should you have any questions along the way, please feel free to reach out to one of the Clinical Services team members. We can't wait to see you in a course and complete a Pathway!

Each course is designed to be offered in-person and have the option of 2 or 3.5 CPD hours. The 2-hour session will include mostly theory while the 3.5 session will include hands-on practical experience.

Email us at:

Education.AU@permobil.com or Education.NZ@permobil.com or click the QR code to register your interest in a course.

Register here



01

Why Does It Matter? Introduction to wheeled mobility and seating assessments

OBJECTIVES

1. Use the ICF model to guide information gathering
2. Identify and prioritise mobility related goals
3. Understand each person's role and responsibility in the assessment and prescription process

Why do you need to gather information and what impact does this have on successful equipment prescription? Research has shown that users are more likely to abandon their equipment when they are not engaged in the assessment and prescription process. In this session we will take a deep dive into the wheelchair and seating assessment process, which will allow you as the prescribing therapist to understand what information you need to collect and why you need it.

Therapists will leave this course with an understanding of what the goal of the initial assessment is, understand and be able to create a plan for a wheelchair and seating trial – getting the most out of it. Strategies to engage and work with end users, suppliers and other team members will be reviewed.



02

To Get Around On Any Ground: What's the methodology when scripting assistive technology?

OBJECTIVES

1. Gain an understanding of what assessments we can use to choose a mobility base
2. Identify the 3 main PWC drive wheel configurations
3. Identify the different MWC frames and understand why you may pick one frame over another

Are you new to working with complex assistive technology? Ever wondered if there is a simple way to decide if the client would be more functional in a manual or powered wheelchair? Want to learn what different equipment is out there and what assessments we can use to assist in the decision-making process?

This workshop will run through the clinical reasoning process when deciding what mobility device will maximise the clients' independence.

The 3.5hr session will allow for hands-on learning, which will give you the opportunity to develop your own PWC driving skills and trial different drive wheel configurations. You will also ump into different MWC frames and test your ability to hold a wheel stand or connect onto a power assist device and drive over different terrains.



03

Under Pressure

OBJECTIVES

1. List 4 common areas for pressure injuries
2. Name the 6 classifications of pressure injuries
3. Describe 3 current practices to assist with the prevention or treatment of pressure injuries

Pressure injuries are mostly preventable, so why are we still seeing such high rates around the world? Do we as clinicians understand enough to help educate ourselves and our clients on best practice for prevention of pressure injuries?

This session will begin with a discussion on pressure itself, where does it come from and how does it work on the body? Then, we will look at the common areas for pressure injuries and a brief overview of pressure injury staging. Once we understand the aetiology, then we will consider current evidence-based best practice including equipment selection. We will conclude the session with the available resources and how to get involved in the interdisciplinary process for the prevention and treatment of pressure injuries.

04

Funding 101 – Ensuring evidence to support outcomes

OBJECTIVES

1. Articulate at least one functional outcome based on the end user's goals
2. Explain two different types of evidence required when justifying AT solutions
3. Demonstrate at least one way to gather evidence through the trial process

What are the foundational elements of writing a funding justification for Assistive Technology? Once we have identified a mobility base to trial, how do we determine that it meets the end users' needs and gain the evidence required for the funding application? The foundation of a good report is being able to articulate the clinical reasoning process in a way that demonstrates why the AT meets the specific user's needs. In this course, we will look at the information requirements to demonstrate that the essential criteria has been met. Resources and case examples will be provided during the interactive component.

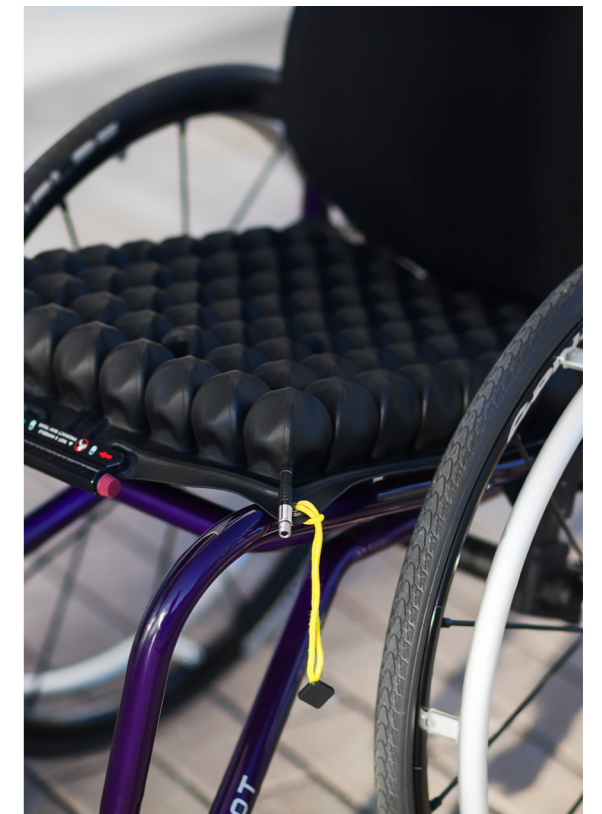
05

The Mechanical Assessment Tool: A hands on practical session

OBJECTIVES

1. Identify the key bony landmarks of the pelvis and understand how these are used to identify postural asymmetries
2. Demonstrate the assessment process for defining reducible postural asymmetries
3. Demonstrate ROM measurements in relation to seated posture
4. Identify postural points of control in relation to product parameters

This course is a practical introduction or refresher into the Mechanical Assessment Tool (MAT). The focus of this session is recognising reducible vs non-reducible asymmetries. The 3 parts of the MAT will be explained, demonstrated and practiced. Considerations of completing this assessment within someone's home environment will be discussed and practical strategies will be provided during the practical session. This session will aim to increase your understanding and confidence when completing the MAT and demonstrate how to use this information/assessment within your practice. Come along prepared to complete a full MAT on a peer and have a MAT completed on you.



06

Peeling Back The Layers: The anatomy of a seating system, the science behind the design

OBJECTIVES

1. Describe the difference between offloading and envelopment in seating design
2. List 3 considerations when identifying potential seating materials
3. Name and describe the 2 different forces that occur between seating materials (foam, air and gel) and the person
4. List a minimum of 3 different points of control in a seating solution and how these address foundation seating principles.

Now you have understood the mechanics of the MAT and may be familiar with some cushions and back supports; but are you able to critically identify the best option to prescribe? Technology advances continue to introduce different materials and designs in off-the-shelf seating products. This workshop looks at different cushion and backrest design concepts and materials, which will provide you with an understanding of how foundation seating principles can be addressed with equipment. This knowledge will enable attendees to challenge their clinical reasoning process / to challenge their clinical reasoning processes and provide a foundation for critically analysing what a product is made from and why it is designed in a certain way. So, get ready to get hands on as we dive beneath the covers.



07

Your Manual into Manual Wheelchair Scripting

OBJECTIVES

1. Identify the difference between custom configured and custom-built frames
2. Understand the importance of propulsion technique with reference to shoulder integrity
3. Understand the importance of the rear wheel position and how we align this to the user

Want to learn the difference between a custom configured and a custom-built frame? Does it even matter? Understanding how configuration impacts on ADL participation, functional mobility and posture are essential when prescribing manual wheelchairs for active users. In this workshop, you will explore a range of set ups and configurations and experience firsthand the differences these have on wheelchair propulsion. We will consider the biomechanics of the user alongside the design and configuration of a manual wheelchair, to ensure we appreciate and understand the importance of an individualised fit for end users.



08

Scripting Power Assist Devices: Gain independence with some power assistance

OBJECTIVES

1. Identify how front, main and rear wheel PAD are installed and detached from a MWC
2. List 3 reasons why you may choose one type of PAD over another (with reference to a case study that will be provided)
3. Identify the benefits of PADs with reference to relevant evidence-based practice (EBP)

Who benefits from a power assist device (PAD) and what do we need to consider during an assessment? Are all PADs compatible with all types of MWCs? This workshop looks at the different PAD options, exploring the benefits and challenges of each with reference to relevant EBP. We will work through what information is needed from an assessment, potential clinical reasoning strategies and how this relates to identifying the most appropriate device for trial.

10

Let kids be kids: Empowering children through mobility

OBJECTIVES

1. Understand considerations when providing age-appropriate mobility equipment
2. Explain at least three unique prescription considerations for paediatric users
3. Describe strategies to facilitate powered mobility use in relation to a child's learning stage

There are some unique considerations when prescribing for paediatric users. This can extend beyond the child including families, teachers, peers and other therapists. This course will explore manual and power wheelchair considerations, practical tips for paediatric wheelchair skills, including keeping up with their friends and being a kid. We will also touch on the value of providing independent mobility to young children to maximise their participation, opportunities for independence, and most importantly – play!

09

Power Seat Functions and Drive Wheel Configurations: Endless possibilities with powered mobility

OBJECTIVES

1. Identify 2 functional benefits and considerations of each PSF
2. Understand the impact drive wheel configuration has on environmental access
3. Gain an understanding of the functional impact different actuators can have on PWC performance

Do you understand the differences in drive wheel configuration and power seat functions but want to develop your knowledge on how these can be used to increase function?

This course will take a deep and technical dive into the different power seat functions (PSFs) and the functional benefits they can have with reference to relevant evidence-based practice (EBP). We will explore how they work and what effects they may have on other components of the chair.

During the hands-on section in the 3.5hour session, we will get into the PWCs to test out the suspension systems and feel the differences when navigating over uneven terrains or turning in tight spaces. Jump into the chairs and compare mid and front wheel drive bases and attempt to complete different functional tasks using a combination of PSFs.





11

Going the distance: Why Power Wheelchair inner workings make a difference

OBJECTIVES

1. Identify the main components of a power wheelchair under the shroud
2. Understand how suspension functionally impacts a wheelchair user
3. Understand how motor size impacts the daily function of a wheelchair user
4. Know the difference between smart and basic actuators

Ensuring that you don't over or under prescribe equipment can be difficult at times. Appropriate prescription of Power Wheelchairs can often be complex, especially as many of the key features can be hidden under the shroud or within the electronics. In this session we will uncover what is actually under the shroud of a power wheelchair and how these features impact users in a functional way. We will break down and discuss suspension, motors, electronics, actuators and programming in detail – you will leave this session with a clear understanding of what these features are, the functional impact these features have on wheelchair users and be confident when comparing options.

12

Isolating your cushion choice with ISO standards. Making sense of the numbers and letters

OBJECTIVES

1. Understand key ISO tests including how the tests are carried out and what the outcomes mean
2. Understand which performance metrics may provide insights to guide support surface selection
3. Critically analyse support surfaces as they relate to client goals

ISO standards are much more than a box you tick on a funding form. ISO standards provide an objective, scientific laboratory analysis of support surfaces. These tests measure the critical characteristics of wheelchair cushions. This includes tissue protection, positioning, and enhancing the ability to perform ADLs for a wheelchair user. This standardised, lab-based data must be considered along with the needs and goals of the individual.



13

Standing Power Wheelchairs: From evidence to trial

OBJECTIVES

1. Describe 3 evidence supported ways that standing can benefit an end-user
2. List 4 considerations to determine readiness for standing
3. Explain the importance of the trial process for a standing power wheelchair

Feeling nervous or overwhelmed when determining if standing is right for your client? Or maybe you have made the decision, but where do you start? This session is designed to help your confidence in all things standing power wheelchairs.

Standing as a therapy intervention has been broadly recognised as an effective method providing clinical outcomes and improvement of functions. Power standing wheelchairs offer great means for extending these outcomes to the home and community situation, adding additional functional and psycho-social benefits.

During this session, we will begin with a look at the results from Permobil's systematic review of the standing literature. Once we understand the evidence, then we will discuss how to determine readiness for your client and how to have a successful trial.

Additional Offerings:

If you can't find a course to meet yours or your teams' learning goals, please reach out to the team where we will be happy to discuss additional opportunities with you.



REGISTER FOR YOUR COURSE TODAY!

Looking for CPD hours for you and/or your team? Register to have a course(s) come to you.

[Click here to register](#)



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