

## Wheelchair Maintenance Advice - for NHS Wheelchair Service equipment.

Regularly self-servicing your wheelchair will prevent untimely and inconvenient breakdowns, keep repair costs down and extend the wheelchair's life.

Below is a list of common problems and checks that if possible be carried out, with actions required to ensure optimal performance from your wheelchair. Please note that whilst many maintenance tasks can be carried out at home but for specific advice on your own wheelchair please refer to the user manual issued with it. If you are in any doubt about the functioning of your wheelchair, please contact the Wheelchair Service immediately.

PART	CHECKS	WHAT TO DO
<p><b><u>TYRES</u></b> Pneumatic (air) tyres require monitoring to ensure they are optimally inflated. Underinflated tyres will make pushing the wheelchair harder, stop the brakes from working and increase wear.</p> <p>Area of concern; <u>Underinflated tyres.</u></p> <p><u>Flat tyres.</u></p>	<p>Monitor monthly for wear and tear. Check for splits, cracks, bulging and loss of tread.</p> <p>Check tyre pressures once a week using a pressure gauge to compare actual tyre pressure with optimal tyre pressure; as indicated on the side of the tyre.</p> <p>Make sure the valve is not leaking. Inflate the tyre first then put detergent on the valve to see if it bubbles.</p> <p>Make sure the tube is not leaking. Inflate the tyre first then hold it under water to see if it bubbles.</p>	<p>Replace tyres when showing signs of wear – Please contact the Wheelchair Service.</p> <p>Re-inflate the tyre with a hand pump or electric pump.</p> <p>NB: it is always useful to carry a hand pump in your vehicle or keep one attached to your wheelchair.</p> <p>Replace tube – Please contact the Wheelchair Service.</p> <p>Replace tube – Please contact the Wheelchair Service.</p>
<p><b><u>WHEEL ALIGNMENT</u></b></p> <p>Over time, and if damaged, your wheels can come out of alignment and spokes can become loose causing your wheelchair to veer.</p>	<p>Check your wheels weekly to ensure that spokes are intact, rims are not bent and that your wheels are parallel to one another.</p>	<p>Please contact the Wheelchair Service immediately to discuss the issues and we will agree with you the best course of action. This may result in you being supplied with a temporary loan wheelchair whilst your chair is being repaired.</p>
<p><b><u>AXLES</u></b></p> <p>Axles should slide through the axle housing smoothly and “click” into place. No squeaking, catching or excessive side-to-side motion should be present when rolling.</p> <p>Your axles collect dirt easily and need to be kept clean to ensure smooth propelling.</p>	<p>Check that the axle housing is free from dirt, hair and mud. Ideally, this should be checked weekly.</p>	<p>Try to clean the axle housings and around the bearings, then lubricate with appropriate oil.</p> <p>Appropriate oils are: AC90 and WD40 or any penetrating lubricants. <b>NB: Do not use 3:1 oil.</b></p> <p>If this is not successful – Please contact the Wheelchair Service.</p>

<b>PART</b>	<b>CHECK</b>	<b>WHAT TO DO</b>
<p><b><u>CASTORS</u></b></p> <p>Your castors should run smoothly, however, they are as susceptible to dirt as your axles and need to be looked after in the same manner.</p>	<p>Make sure there is no hair, fluff or grit in the castors.</p> <p>Make sure that the castor forks run free and are not bent.</p>	<p>Pick out dirt with tweezers.</p> <p>Lubricate the castor housing bearings. If it is still not free (one continuous turn without it sticking) please contact the Wheelchair Service for replacement.</p>
<p><b><u>BRAKES</u></b></p> <p>Brakes can become worn over time, get damaged or work themselves loose and are then not effective.</p>	<p>Apply the brakes and check the tyres are held firmly in place and the brakes are easy to put on/off.</p> <p>Check the tyres are inflated to the right pressure.</p> <p>Check the brakes are complete with all parts correct.</p> <p>Check brakes are not excessively worn.</p> <p>Release brakes and check they do not rub against the tyre when pushing.</p>	<p>Tighten bracket so that brakes are held firmly to the frame in the correct position. <b>NB: Do not over tighten</b></p> <p>Inflate if needed.</p> <p>Please contact the Wheelchair Service.</p> <p>Please contact the Wheelchair Service.</p> <p>Please contact the Wheelchair Service.</p>
<p><b><u>NUTS AND BOLTS</u></b></p> <p>Nuts and bolts can become loose and can be lost if not tightened.</p>	<p>Check that all nuts and bolts are present.</p> <p>Make sure that nuts and bolts are secure.</p>	<p>Please contact the Wheelchair Service to book for a repair to be completed.</p> <p>Tighten to hand tight or as specified in your wheelchair user manual. Contact The Wheelchair Service if you are unsure.</p>
<p><b><u>LEG RESTS AND ARMRESTS</u></b></p> <p>If appropriate to your wheelchair, all leg-rests and armrests should be easily removed/swung-away and replaced/repositioned easily.</p>	<p>Make sure that parts lock in place securely.</p>	<p>If parts are not locking try lubricating. If this is unsuccessful please contact the Wheelchair Service.</p>
<p><b><u>WHEELCHAIR FRAME</u></b></p> <p>If your frame is damaged your safety is at risk.</p>	<p>Check for cracks, splits, large dents and that all moving parts run smoothly.</p>	<p>If you find any of these things <b>DO NOT USE.</b></p> <p><b>Please contact the Wheelchair Service immediately.</b></p>