



WHEELCHAIRS

What are the types of wheelchairs?

There are two kinds of wheelchairs:

1. **Manual:** Moved by the person or family. It usually folds and can be placed in a car.
2. **Power:** Battery-operated.
It can be controlled by
 - Hand
 - Head
 - Chin
 - A breath-control system

The batteries need to be recharged (see below).

Power wheelchairs need more space to steer than manual wheelchairs. A van with a lift is needed for transportation.

There are many types of manual and power wheelchairs. The physical and occupational therapists will help choose the right wheelchair.

How is a wheelchair cared for?

- Clean the seat and metal with mild soap and water.
- Removed lint from around the axles with a bottle brush.
- Check wheels for loose spokes and worn bearings.

- Check tires for correct pressure (stamped on the side of the tire).
- Monthly, put a few drops of light oil on the bearings at the hubs.
- Gel batteries need only nightly recharging. Follow the owner's manual for recharging. To recharge lead acid batteries, see guidelines below.

Charging Guidelines: Lead Acid Batteries

1. The batteries consist of two 12-volt deep-cycle batteries (boat batteries).
2. Use grounded outlets.
3. Charge batteries in well-ventilated areas due to release of gases.
4. Charge batteries in dry areas away from water.
5. The usual recharging time is 8 to 12 hours. It should never take longer than 18 hours.
6. The charger will automatically stop when batteries are fully charged. Do not keep them plugged in for more than two days (shortens life of batteries).