



Service Description

Service Mandate

Specialized Seating Service (SSS) at the Health Sciences Centre is a service for individuals 18 years of age or older who are full-time wheelchair users experiencing complex seating or mobility-related issues that cannot otherwise be met through community-based therapy resources. Clients must have a neurological diagnosis and/or complex skin/wound issues (related to seating) and reside within Manitoba or Nunavut. Clients who have private, third party funding including Worker's Compensation Board (WCB) or Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI) are not eligible for this program.

Referral Requirements

- Referrals to Specialized Seating Service are only accepted from the client's primary therapist, as this service is consultative and requires an assigned provider.
- Prior to proceeding with the referral, a commitment from the primary therapist to engage in the seating process and to provide continued support in partnership with Specialized Seating Service is required.
- The client's medical stability, clearance for travel and the ability to tolerate at least one hour of sitting in their seating system must be confirmed.
- Clients must understand and be in agreement with a referral to this service.
- Arrangements for travel to and from Specialized Seating Service or a feasible Telehealth location must be made by the primary therapist.
- A physician referral is not required to access this service; however, it is highly recommended that treating physicians are aware, and in support of a referral to this service.

Referral Categories

The Occupational Therapists working in this service are *consultants* who may address any of the following issues related to seating and mobility:

Pressure Management

- Comprehensive assessment and intervention related to 24-hour pressure management, in the context of seating and mobility

Postural Management

- Comprehensive assessment and intervention related to 24-hour postural management, in the context of seating and mobility

Functional Mobility Management

- Manual propulsion and power driving evaluations to maximize efficiency and use of wheelchairs
- Formal wheelchair skills training
- Upper extremity management, in the context of wheeled mobility

Assistive Technology Access

- Comprehensive assessment and intervention of power mobility drive controls/alternative access



Education

- Consultation to primary health care providers, funding agencies, and/or consumers dealing with or experiencing complex seating issues
- Formal and informal education on seating-related topics to healthcare staff and consumers
- Mentorship and teaching for therapists who have clients with complex seating to facilitate knowledge translation
- Educational Workshops

Referral Process

- Client's primary therapist (referral source) completes and submits a **Specialized Seating Service Intake/Referral Form** and a completed **Seating/Mobility Questionnaire**
- An initial screening/intake appointment will be scheduled within 4-6 weeks of receiving the completed referral, if applicable. Attendance by both the client and primary therapist at this appointment is mandatory. Referrals will be prioritized and added to the waitlist, following the initial screening appointment (if applicable)
- Re-referrals are accepted only if a client has received intervention through Specialized Seating Service within the past (12) months. All re-referrals require a primary therapist and completion of the **Re-Referral Consult Form**

Models of Service Delivery

- Consultative
- Direct client care
- Clinics/groups
- Indirect consults

Please direct any questions regarding the suitability of a referral or the intake process to Jennifer Birt – Intake Coordinator at (204) 787-4266, or jlbirt@hsc.mb.ca