



CHRIST'S HOME
POLICY MANUAL

No. S-S15 Page 1 of 4

Replaces: NEW

Dated:

Effective Date: 6/8/2018

Approved By:
Quality Assurance Committee
Senior Leadership

Author: SNF Administration
Date of Origin: March 2018
Review/Revision date:

TITLE: Motorized Chair Policy

POLICY STATEMENT:

It is the policy of Christ's Home that the use of a motorized chair is a privilege and not a right. A resident may utilize a motorized chair within the building and on campus if they meet eligibility requirements and respect the rules and regulations. Residents using motorized chairs must utilize them with appropriate safety and consideration for other residents, staff and visitors.

PURPOSE:

To define the policy for Residents who wish to operate a motorized chair in order to ensure the safety of Residents, staff and visitors.

DEFINITIONS:

A motorized wheelchair, powerchair, electric wheelchair or electric-powered wheelchair (EPW) is a wheelchair that is propelled by means of an electric motor rather than manual power.

REFERENCE:

None.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

PROCEDURE:

1. Eligibility
 - a. Resident must have the mental and physical capacity to safely operate a motorized chair as assessed by the Rehabilitation Department. This includes: adequate visual acuity, processing and cognitive skills, hearing, safety judgement, ability to operate joystick controls and/or an alternative adaptive control and adequate trunk control and stability.
 - b. Resident must complete a training/driving program provided by the Rehabilitation Department prior to authorization of motorized chair use.
 - c. Must have the financial resources to purchase and maintain a motorized chair.
2. Residents must sign an agreement indicating they will abide by the following Rules & Regulations:
 - a. All operators must maintain complete control of their own motorized chair at all

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times. If resident is no longer able to maneuver/control the motorized chair independently, the use of the motorized chair will be deemed unsafe and the privilege of operation will be withdrawn.

- b. Pedestrians and those in manual wheelchairs have the Right of Way in hallways and elevators, traveling on the right side of the hallway.
- c. All operators must avoid contact with fixed and movable objects.
- d. Indoor speed must be maintained at or below walking pace
- e. Residents in motorized chairs travel single file (not side by side.)
- f. Residents shall carry no additional passengers at any time. No towing, pushing, or pulling of other objects or vehicles of any sort is allowed.
- g. Travel on campus is limited to the sidewalks only. Travel should only occur on the roadway when crossing at intersections.
- h. In the building, Residents need to stop at all hallway intersections in order to travel safely.
- i. Residents need to enter elevators forward and turn around in the elevator in order to exit the elevator in a forward fashion.
- j. Residents will pass a driving test coordinated by the Rehabilitation Department.
- k. Upon return from a hospitalization, the resident will use a manual wheelchair until reassessed by the Rehabilitation Department.
- l. Residents will not drink alcohol and then operate their motorized chair.
- m. If a Resident's ability to safely operate his/her motorized chair is in question at any time, an evaluation by the care team will be initiated which may include passing an additional driving test.
- n. Use of a motorized chair is a privilege and not a right in this community.
- o. Resident is responsible to pay for damages caused by their motorized chair, including but not limited to, Christ's Home Facility, furniture or fixtures or other resident's property.
- p. Resident is responsible for all maintenance on and/or damage to their motorized chair. Resident is encouraged to obtain insurance.

3. Safe Use

- a. If a Resident's ability to safely operate his/her motorized chair is in question at any time based on staff observation or a reported incident, an evaluation by the care



CHRIST'S HOME
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team will be initiated, which may include an additional evaluation by Rehabilitative Services. All incidences must be documented in the Resident's chart.

- i. 3 documented incidents in a 2-week period results in removal of the chair until reviewed by the team
 - ii. Injury to staff, self or others even if first occurrence will result in removal of the chair until reviewed by the team.
 - iii. Significant damage to property will result in removal of the chair until reviewed by the team.
 - b. Nursing will initiate order for Rehabilitation evaluation for safety awareness/driver's training. Results of which will be documented and shared with the Administrator or her designee.
 - c. Upon determination that the Resident has poor safety awareness while operating a motorized chair due to identified property damage or potential/actual harm to other Residents, themselves, staff, or visitors, it's use will be prohibited. This may be a permanent prohibition or until the resident has received additional training and is deemed safe to operate a motorized chair.
 - d. The Resident may only resume the operation of his/her motorized chair once approval has been received from the interdisciplinary care team.
 - e. If the Resident shows signs and symptoms of cognitive or behavioral changes the Resident will not utilize the chair until determined safe by DON or MD.
4. Residents will be required to review the policy and sign a document outlining their understanding and agreement to abide by the rules as outlined in the policy.
 5. This policy is subject to change.



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I fully understand the above policy and agree to abide by the rules & regulations outlined when using my motorized chair. I understand if I neglect to follow these rules, my use of the motorized chair will be reevaluated by the Interdisciplinary Care Team, which could result in revocation of motorized chair privileges.

Resident Name-Signature

Date

Resident Name- Print