WHAT IS THE ‘LOAD’ DOWN WITH WHEELCHAIR CUSHIONS?

TRICIA HENLEY, MPT, ATP
The ROHO Group

It seems that the process involved in selecting clinically appropriate seat cushions for our wheelchair seated clients has switched gears somewhat from a purely artistic approach to perhaps a more evidence based or science based thought process. This is a welcome change in our industry and one we can all embrace. Regardless of what funding source we are accessing, we have to be accountable with our documentation of the assessment, goal forming and product selection process.

Too often therapists and providers who recommend seating and positioning products do not fully understand the reason(s) behind the design and the specific characteristics of product options. This interactive program provides foundational knowledge of an alternative approach to the way the health care community chooses various seating support surfaces when discussing maintenance of skin integrity. In addition to positioning and stability needs, one of the most important criteria, which need to be considered, is choosing correct products to help promote better skin integrity. Following an overview of pressure ulcer etiology, there will be discussions revolving around pressure ulcer pathology and the correlation to needing a better thought process in the clinical decision making of choosing the most appropriate wheelchair cushion for individuals using a wheelchair. Using scientific principles, the majority of the discussion will review the materials and the design methods that manufactures use to construct cushions to provide specific therapeutic benefits. In addition, participants will gain a greater understanding of varying LOAD REDISTRIBUTION properties manufactures use to achieve specific clinical outcomes regarding improved skin integrity. Finally, quantifying methods used to compare and contrast the differences in load redistribution techniques will be reviewed.

References


**Speaker Bio**

Tricia Henley, MPT, ATP is currently the Clinical Applications Manager for The ROHO Group. Ms. Henley has an extensive background in SCI rehab and seating, and now travels speaking on topics such as wheelchair seating, pressure imaging, and wound prevention at local facilities and various conferences.