

Appendix C

References and Resources



If you are interested in obtaining additional information about wheelchairs and mobility skills, there are a number of resources you can tap with a visit, a phone call, a letter or a modem.

Centers for Independent Living (CIL)

Most communities have a Center for Independent Living (also called Independent Living Centers or ILCs). These centers are run by and for people with disabilities. Their mission is to help people with disabilities live more independently and become productive, fully participating members of society.

Rehabilitation Centers

The rehabilitation center in your area may have facilities you can use to try out equipment and see which devices might benefit you. They may recommend an evaluation by an occupational or physical therapist, or a RESNA certified assistive technology practitioner. These professionals can often provide you with insight into your abilities and potential needs, and may be able to direct you toward other helpful accessories. Your rehabilitation center may also refer you to other centers that can better meet your specific needs.

Medical Equipment Suppliers

Medical Equipment Suppliers represent equipment manufacturers and should be able to help you make equipment choices compatible with your lifestyle. Remember that these companies are in the business of selling equipment, so you need to be an educated consumer and look further than the salesperson. The National Registry of Rehabilitation Technology Suppliers has a registry of equipment suppliers.

When buying equipment, consider the resources and reliability of the supplier. Ask them about their repair policies. For instance, will they loan you equipment when yours is being repaired? Are they helpful on the telephone? Do they seem willing to spend time telling you about the pros and cons of the variety of equipment? Will they help you adjust and re-adjust your equipment? The supplier should be willing to give you the names of a few of their

customers. Contact these people to determine how they feel about the supplier's services.

Equipment Manufacturers

Most wheelchair and related equipment manufacturers have toll-free numbers and are available for assistance. They will often refer you to a local supplier or others in your area who are familiar with their products. Some manufacturers have technical assistance departments that may be able to help you with specific questions about modifications, adjustments or repairs. Some manufacturers publish documents in addition to their wheelchair owner's manuals. You can talk with your local supplier about getting documents from any of the manufacturers.

Other Users

Find people in your community who have similar interests and needs. Other people often have recommendations for equipment and you can combine their information with the recommendations you get from rehab professionals and equipment suppliers. By learning as much as you can, you will be able to make informed decisions about your equipment.

Professional Organizations

Some professional organizations may be able to provide you with information directly or refer you to members in your area who may be familiar with similar circumstances to yours.

APTA

American Physical Therapy Association

1111 N. Fairfax St. (800) 999-2782
Alexandria, VA 22314 www.apta.org

AOTA

American Occupational Therapy Association

4720 Montgomery Lane (800) 729-2682
PO Box 31220 www.aota.org
Bethesda, MD 20824-1220 info@aota.org

NRRTS

National Registry of Rehabilitation Technology Suppliers

P.O. Box 4033 (512) 267-6832
Lago Vista, TX 78645-4033 www.nrrts.org
nrrts@ctsinet.com

Paralyzed Veterans of America

Spinal Cord Injury Education and Training Foundation

801 18th Street NW (800) 424-8200
Washington, DC 20006 www.pva.org
info@pva.org

RESNA

Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America

1700 N. Moore St., Suite 1540 (703) 524-6686
Arlington, VA 22209-1903 www.resna.org
info@resna.org

Publications

A Guide to Wheelchair Selection: How to Use the ANSI/RESNA Wheelchair Standards to Buy a Wheelchair

Written by Peter Axelson, Jean Minkel and Denise Chesney
Paralyzed Veterans of America, Washington, DC
PVA Publications Distribution Center (888) 860-7244
info@pva.org

Active Living Magazine

P.O. Box 2659
Niagara Falls, NY 14302-9945
www.cripworld.com/themall/activeliving/shtml

Enable Magazine

Magazine of the American Association of People
with Disabilities (AAPD) (800) 840-8844
1819 H Street NW,
Suite 300 www.dnaco.net/~elainc/enable.html
Washington, DC 20006 readenable@aol.com

New Mobility

No Limits, Inc.
P.O. Box 220 (888) 850-0344
Horsham, PA 19044 www.newmobility.com

Paraplegia News

PVA Publications (606) 224-0500
2111 East Highland Avenue, Suite 180 www.pn-magazine.com
Phoenix, AZ 85016-4702 pvapub@aol.com

Sports 'n Spokes

PVA Publications (602) 224-0500
2111 East Highland Avenue, Suite 180 www.sns-magazine.com
Phoenix, AZ 85016-4702 pvapub@aol.com
Sports 'n Spokes publishes articles comparing available wheel-
chair models.

Websites

There are numerous websites with information about wheelchairs and for wheelchair users. Here are a few of them.

ABLEDATA

www.abledata.com

A searchable database of rehabilitation products.

Beneficial Designs, Inc.

www.beneficialdesigns.com

A rehabilitation engineering design firm specializing in recreational technologies, innovative wheeled mobility and seating, and access to outdoor recreation environments.

SpinLife

www.SpinLife.com

A site featuring wheelchairs, scooters and accessories.

WheelchairJunkie

www.WheelchairJunkie.com

A site for wheelchair users by wheelchair users.

WheelchairNet

www.WheelchairNet.org

A virtual community that provides information, support and a forum for wheelchair users.