

Learning & Development Programme of Wheeled Mobility & Postural Management Level 1 Credential

Before commencing the Learning & Development Programme for the Level 1 or Level 2 Wheeled Mobility and Postural Management credential, therapists need to familiarise themselves with the Competency Framework and Clinical Indicators for each level. This information is available via the following link: <https://www.enable.co.nz/ems-assessors/get-accreditations/explore-accreditations/wheeled-mobility-postural-management>

Tasks need to be signed off by a supervising therapist or mentor¹ in accordance with the following guidelines. Tasks may be signed off retrospectively up to 3 years providing the supervising therapist or mentor has adequate evidence that the standard was achieved, however the assessor must apply for the credential within 2 years of attending the Level 1 workshop. Many of the tasks can be achieved during the assessment and trial process normally undertaken with the person. More than one task can be completed at a time.

Task	Guidelines for supervising/mentor therapist to sign off
1. Attends the 2-day MSD/DSS approved training for Wheeled Mobility & Postural Management Level 1 assessors.	Current MSD/DSS ² approved provider/s: www.seatingtogo.co.nz
2. Observes 3 initial assessment interviews and physical evaluations with supervising/mentoring therapist.	The initial assessment should reflect the central role of the person with the disability in the assessment process. The supervising/mentoring therapist should model the importance of gathering social, functional, and environmental information in addition to a supine and sitting evaluation. The identified problems, needs and goals must be meaningful to the

¹ Supervising or mentoring therapist must be credentialed to at least the same level being signed off. More than one mentor may be used to sign off tasks.

² Ministry of Social Development/Disability Support Services = MSD/DSS.

	person with the disability. This task could be completed utilising videotaped interviews/assessments if necessary.
3. Assessor is observed doing 3 initial assessment interviews.	The initial assessment interview must explore fully with the person, their problems, needs and goals as they relate to wheeled mobility and seating. Findings must include social, functional, and environmental factors. Developmental needs should be included for children. The assessor is required to demonstrate an ability to: • Determine the equipment parameters of the wheeled mobility and seating solution to meet other needs such as transport, communication, indoor environments, outdoor environments, workplace/school requirements and the person's social situation. • Describe options to meet the needs and goals of the person. • Consider referral to, or liaison with, other services if appropriate.
4. Completes 3 supine evaluations for people with Level 1 wheeled mobility and seating needs. <i>NB: If the assessor is employed in a specialist wheelchair service, they may complete this task with a person who meets the Level 2 Clinical Indicators. In this case tasks on both the Level 1 and Level 2 pathway may be signed off.</i>	Task 4 & 5 may be completed together, however some new assessors may wish to consolidate their skills in supine evaluation before progressing to the sitting evaluation. The supervising/mentoring therapist may provide instruction/guidance for one evaluation. The remaining two must be completed independently. The assessor is observed: • Correctly identifying and locating key anatomical landmarks of the pelvis. • Correctly identifying and recording range of movement at hips and knees. • Demonstrating effective handling & positioning. The assessor is required to:

	Describe the impact any joint limitations would have on seated position and equipment parameters.
5. Completes 3 sitting evaluations for people who can sit with minimal support. <i>NB: If the assessor is employed in a specialist wheelchair service, they may complete this task with a person who meets the Level 2 Clinical Indicators. In this case tasks on both the Level 1 and Level 2 pathway may be signed off.</i>	Task 4 & 5 may be completed together. The supervising/mentoring therapist may provide instruction/guidance for one evaluation. The remaining two must be completed independently. The assessor is required to: - Describe equipment parameters required to achieve pelvic stability and symmetry. - Describe spinal presentations and rationale for amount and type of back support required to enhance positioning and function. - Acknowledge the need to compromise positioning goals to enable function when necessary. - Correctly measure and record body dimensions.
6. Completes hands-on product evaluation for 6 cushions and 3 backrests with generalised lateral shaping.	Product choice must be varied in type and supplier. 3 cushions must be able to accommodate/correct pelvic asymmetry. 3 static seating solutions or car seats may be used in lieu of cushions/backrests. Product evaluation forms are available from the MSD/DSS approved training provider and are those used in the Wheeled Mobility and Postural Management Level 1 workshop. Completed forms need to be shared with supervising/mentoring therapist. This task can be completed in a peer group.

7. Identifies contributing factors and potential pressure management strategies for a person presenting with skin breakdown due to pressure.	Assessor needs to identify: • Area at risk of skin breakdown. • Possible causes and factors involved – may not be wheeled mobility/seating related. • Recommendation for reduction of risk and solutions for problem. This can be discussed by review of client file with supervising/mentoring therapist.
8. Configures/adjusts a standard manual wheelchair/buggy or powered wheelchair for 3 people to optimise function and/or positioning and completes a wheelchair/buggy prescription form for the same. <i>NB: It is preferable that the assessor takes a hands-on approach and makes these changes themselves. If this is not possible, the assessor must identify the configuration requirements and clearly communicate these to a technician and provide them with direction as the changes are made.</i>	Must include one person who self-propels. The assessor needs to demonstrate: • An ability to configure manual self-propelling wheelchairs to reduce the risk of secondary complications such as rotator cuff injury. • An awareness of the adjustable features and options on standard manual wheelchairs/buggies and powered wheelchairs, including programmable options, such as turning or deceleration speed. • Rationale for wheeled mobility base configuration as it relates to postural and functional requirements. The assessor may configure a manual wheelchair for a person who may not be on their caseload to achieve this task. E.g. trial set up for another assessor.
9. Demonstrates provision of training and instruction at time of equipment issue with 3 people.	The assessor must demonstrate: • A planned approach to training the person that ensures any risks are minimised.

	Thorough instruction around the care and use of equipment. This task may be achieved through actual observed practice by the supervising/mentoring therapist or presentation of individualised training material given to the person. "Person" refers to the person with the disability and their whanau/carers/advocate.
10. Presents 3 client files complete with before and after photographs of trial or purchased wheeled mobility and seating equipment solutions to supervising/mentoring therapist. (1 of the 3 assessments may be for a static seating solution or car seat).	Client files must include: - Findings from initial assessment – physical, social, functional, environmental etc. - The identified problems, needs and goals. - Clinical rationale for deciding equipment parameters. - Equipment trialled and outcomes of trials. - Outcome of intervention e.g. were the person's goals met, if not, why not? Photographs need to include full frontal view and side view. If client is self-propelling, photographs should be with hands placed at the 12o'clock position on the push rims. This will enable the supervising/mentoring therapist to evaluate wheelchair set-up in relation to shoulder girdle position. If this has been compromised, assessor needs to be able to comment on rationale.

Tasks to be completed for Wheeled Mobility & Postural Management Level 1 credential							
Assessor name:	Enter assessor name	EMS assessor number:	Enter EMS assessor number				
Tasks must be completed within two years of attendance of the MSD/DSS approved Level 1 workshop.		Date/Sign	Date/Sign	Date/Sign	Date/Sign	Date/Sign	Date/Sign

1. Attends MSD/DSS approved workshop for Level 1 assessors – 16hrs.						
2. Observes 3 initial assessment interviews and physical evaluations with supervising/mentoring therapist.						
3. Three initial assessment interviews are observed by supervising / mentoring therapist.						
4. Completes 3 supine evaluations for people with standard wheeled mobility and seating needs.						
5. Completes 3 sitting evaluations for clients who can sit with minimal support.						
6. Completes hands-on product evaluation for 6 cushions and 3 backrests with generalised trunk support. Shares with supervising/mentoring therapist.						
7. Identifies contributing factors and potential pressure management strategies for a person presenting with skin breakdown or at high risk of breakdown. Shares with supervising/mentoring therapist.						
8. Configures/adjusts a standard manual or powered wheelchair/buggy for 3 people to optimise function and/or positioning and completes a prescription form for the same.						
9. Demonstrates provision of training and instruction at the time of equipment issue with 3 people.						
10. Presents 3 client files complete with before and after photographs of trial or purchased wheeled mobility and						

seating equipment solutions to supervising/mentoring therapist.						
Optional endorsement for the Lying Credential						
Once the assessor has achieved the Level 1 credential, they have the option of becoming credentialed in Lying. This enables them to provide equipment options for nighttime positioning and other supported lying options as part of a 24hr approach to postural management. Attendance at an MSD/DSS approved 2-day workshop in 24hr Postural Management (Lying) is required before applying for this credential.						
Applying for the credential						
Once tasks are complete the therapist needs to apply for the credential via the EMS Assessor Online process. http://www.disabilityfunding.co.nz/ems-assessors						