



Service Priorities and Programmes
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Technology Assessment And Evidence Report On ‘Power Standup Device’ For Adults With Permanent Lower Limb Paralysis

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Introduction

“Standing” is one of the many basic and essential human functions. Although it is the usual routines in all of the rehabilitation process, to continue the routine to ‘stand up’ everyday after discharge at home is not easy for those with permanent lower limb paralysis. Hence, complications from prolonged sitting arise easily for chronic wheelchair users. In recent years, new well-designed ‘power assisted standing devices’ came into market allowing the patient to standup indeendently. To proof their efficacy of usage is demanded before introduced to and prescribed by local therapists.

Objectives

To explore the current practice and collect evidence on the Key Question: How to maintain a sustainable and effective home standing program in local conditions which the equipment should preferably be independently operated by client, transportable and compact that fit the small home environment in Hong Kong?

Methodology

A pre-evaluation panel was set up to select the equipment and design key questions for assessment, and suggests key informants (experts and end-users of the area) to evaluate the equipment. Afterwards, key informants panel was held to assess the selected equipment by answering the key questions. The result from key informants would be summarized into an evaluation report with independent reviewers from academics.

Result

30 key informants involved therapists, technician, industry and patients. They joined the TA forums and survey. Majority agreed that complications caused by lack of standing opportunities at home would increase burden of the society and caregiver and Power Standup devices could resolve the problem. Costing analysis according to WHO guideline revealed 60% savings of social cost. Users’ feedback was also analyzed in compare and contrast with therapists. Changing the current practice through the new methodology of technology by engaging different levels and sectors

of professionals and patients will deemed necessary especially in rehabilitation.