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| WHEELCHAIR TRAVEL SAFETY | | | | NO. 114 | |
| Policy:  As a privilege to the residents of Winning Wheels who can safely travel off campus, we offer a specialized wheelchair safety course. To ensure the safety of residents when traveling per self outside the facility, residents will be encouraged to study materials provided by the Illinois Department of Transportation on "Rules of the Road" to increase awareness of potential problems and/or consequences resulting from unsafe travel. The Winning Wheels Travel Safety Program was developed by the Safety Committee, in conjunction with the Board of Directors, approved by the Resident Council, and endorsed by the Prophetstown Police. The Wheelchair Travel Safety Program is designed as a preventive program to decrease the likelihood of resident accident/incident as a result of unsafe travel practices.  Procedure:  1. Upon admission residents will be informed of the opportunity to obtain a Safety Pass, which is necessary for them to be able to travel beyond facility grounds without supervision. If interested, residents will be given a copy of "The Rules of the Road", supplemental information about wheelchair travel and a designated safety route map.  2. Safety committee representatives will notify residents of upcoming "Road Test" testing dates (weather permitting).  3. The Transdisciplinary Team, Safety Committee and other staff volunteers will assist residents with studying for the written/oral test as needed and test/retest per resident’s request. The written/oral exam must be passed in order to qualify for taking the “Road Test”.  4. Residents will be able to test up to a maximum of 2 times per year (if they don’t pass) or should a significant change of condition occur until successfully passing the Winning Wheels Travel Safety Program. Testers must achieve 84% of 25 questions to pass exam (exception: NOT including the \*marked questions on test).  5. Residents without Safety Passes will be allowed to travel off grounds with staff or family supervision only to ensure resident’s safety.  6. Residents with Safety Passes will be re-tested if their medical condition changes substantially or if they obtain a new or different wheelchair thus demonstrating difficulty in manipulation of wheelchair or decrease in strength or endurance as determined by the Treatment Team and/or Safety Committee. New residents will be scheduled to test with Safety Coordinator and Case Manager.  7. The written/oral test questions will consist a minimum of:   1. Defensive driving 2. Road Signs 3. Preparations prior to leaving facility 4. Consequences of Alcohol consumption 5. Wheelchair safety tips 6. Facility Policy/Regulations | | | | | |
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| 8. The Wheelchair Travel Safety Program may consist of:   1. Manipulation of wheelchair in the community and on local paths and/or road ways 2. Entering and maneuvering in local business/public buildings 3. Use of designated wheelchair paths and safe routes 4. Use of ramps, crosswalks and pedestrian walkways 5. Evaluation of stamina, endurance, and decision-making skills for wheelchair users (how physical conditions affect the operation of resident’s wheelchair). 6. Backing into designated space 7. Van loading safety 8. Pushing or driving self up an incline (the entrance of the STRIVE facility) to assess strength and endurance and knowledge of what is correct path of travel. 9. Wheelchair path and suggested safety routes to assess: 10. Knowledge of road signs/traffic laws 11. Endurance 12. Judgment 13. Interaction with community or general public 14. Use of wheelchair path or suggested safety routes 15. Driving skills 16. For those who successfully pass the Wheelchair Safety Test, a notation will be made in their clinical record and their name will be added to the Safety Pass List located at each nurse’s station. Residents with Safety Passes are required to notify a staff member so they can assist them out the front gate and off facility grounds. Resident must report back in to the nurse upon their return. 17. Those residents who do not successfully pass the Wheelchair Safety Test will be unable to depart from facility grounds without staff or family supervision.   11. Those residents who are determined by the Treatment Team to be a potential risk for elopement, based on the identification of predictive risk behaviors (including non-compliance with Treatment Team recommendations as noted in #10) will be required to be monitored by Wanderguard or other safety device, as indicated in their clinical record.  12. Residents who pass the test may lose “off ground” privileges if staff, general public, and/or law enforcement agencies report unsafe driving or violation of facility policy. This consists of disregard for traffic laws (driving in an unsafe manner) and the use of tobacco, alcohol, or drugs while off campus. Also:   1. Pulling out into traffic 2. Driving down the middle of the street, crossing in the middle of the block, etc. 3. Not being able to manipulate wheelchair on wheelchair path or other areas throughout the community. 4. Deterioration of physical condition that may affect judgment or driving ability 5. Driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. 6. Smoking on facility property or private property.   Safety Committee and Transdisciplinary Team will conduct a thorough investigation before action is taken. Results will be reflected on care plan.  13. Off-campus privileges will cease November 15th each year due to winter weather conditions and will be re-instated in March of the following year once the resident again passes the annual wheelchair safety test. | | | | | |
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