

# Top 3 Points to Ponder When Selecting A Manual Wheelchair

## #1 The client's needs, abilities and limitations

### \* Is the user self propelling?

- YES!**
- \* Self-Propel: These chairs should have the larger rear wheels - usually 20", 22" or 24", swiveling front castors and hand rims to push the wheels with. They are also better for going over rougher terrain and can fold for easy transport.
  - \* Lightweight & Adjustable: In addition to the weight of the chair, also think good rear axle adjustability for centre of gravity (ability to adjust the position of the rear wheels for optimal propulsion and body mechanics); Additionally, adjustability allows for correct seat to floor heights for foot propelling and transfers.
  - \* Transfer Conditions: How will the person get in/out of the chair? – will they need flip back armrests, swing in/out leg rests, the correct seat to floor height.
  - \* How long will the chair be Used Daily? If you want to use the wheelchair all day (or more than 4 hours) then you need to ensure it will have the correct seating and backrest. (See November 2017 Health Corner for more information.)

- NO!**
- \* If Not Self Propelling or using it for most of the day – a Transport Wheelchair may be the option
  - \* Smaller rear wheels are more suitable. The standard size for these wheels are 12". In addition to the standard manual brakes by the wheels, many models offer attendant brakes (or foot brakes) to assist the carer to reduce speed down hills or lock on for safety when required. Transport Chairs are slightly lighter in weight for transporting, but have seating limitations.

## #2 The caregivers' needs, abilities and limitations

- \* Do you need attendant brakes? Is it light enough to push? Can you get it in/out of your car easily enough? Are the rear wheels removable? Do you know how to operate the chair safely and easily?

## #3 Financial factors

- \* What is your budget? Do you have insurance or public funding available to you?
- \* Costs for manual wheelchairs range in price – Contact HME for more information.



### Helio Move



Key Points: Less Expensive, good adjustability

### Helio C2



Key Points: More expensive, Lightest weight, Best Adjustability

### Quickie 2



Key Points: More Expensive, Free Growth Kit, Free One Time Upgrade for 5 years

This edition of Health Corner was compiled by Jeff Lang, HME Seating & Mobility Consultant, based on his experience.

For more information about manual wheelchairs, please contact your local sales rep today.

## Three locations to serve you!

**Richmond Location**  
#130 - 4011 Viking Way  
Richmond, BC, V6V 2K9  
Phone: (604) 821-0075  
Fax: (604) 821-0049

**South Surrey Location**  
#140 - 19288 22 Avenue  
Surrey, BC, V3Z 3S6  
Phone: (604) 535-5768  
Fax: (604) 542-0184

**Victoria Location**  
2521 Government Street  
Victoria, BC, V8T 4P6  
Phone: (250) 386-0075  
Fax: (250)386-0049

[www.hmebc.com](http://www.hmebc.com)

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