

Title of Document:	Wheelchair Seating Assessment BC
Overview:	This document contains an outline of how to obtain an assessment from an Occupational Therapist for wheelchair seating and where to start to get funding.
Occupational Therapist:	<p>An Occupational Therapist (OT) is a professional trained to assess your wheelchair and seating needs, who will help you trial equipment and write a prescription. The OT may also help with funding applications.</p> <p>Your OT assessment may be covered by MSP, but this will require a referral from your doctor to your local Home and Community Care or Primary Care team. There may be a waitlist to see an OT in your area so it's important to start the process early. If you receive support through WorkSafe BC or ICBC, tell your case manager you need an assessment done.</p> <p>It is possible to pay out of pocket for a private assessment with an OT.</p> <p>It is also possible to buy a wheelchair without having an assessment but this is not recommended because an OT assessment will help ensure your seating is appropriate for comfort and to minimize pressure sores and injuries from inadequate seating. Unless you are buying a</p>

For further information on SCI BC programs and services check out our website at www.sci-bc.ca

Disclaimer: SCI BC will attempt to keep content information as up to date and current as possible. SCI BC does not make any representation with respect to the quality of the service or products and the customer is responsible for making all necessary inquiries to protect themselves before contracting, utilizing or products

Spinal Cord Injury BC 780 SW Marine Drive, Vancouver, BC V6P 5Y7

wheelchair out of pocket, you will require an OT assessment to get coverage.

If your seating needs are complex or there is no OT available in your area with sufficient experience to evaluate your seating needs, you can request a seating assessment from GF Strong. You will still need to have an initial screening from your local OT. The eligibility criteria and referral form are here http://www.vch.ca/Locations-Services/result?res_id=1387

You know your body best and may need to advocate with your OT to receive a wheelchair prescription that you feel will meet your needs. Remember that no matter how skilled your OT is, you are still the one using the wheelchair every day and you must ensure that it is comfortable for you and will allow you to do what you want in the community.

Medical Equipment Dealers:

You can visit your local medical equipment supply store to learn more about the types of wheelchairs and cushions that might work for you. It is recommended that you do this with an OT who can help guide you to the products that will work best and that are likely to be covered by your insurance.

You can find lists of medical equipment dealers here <https://sci-bc.ca/resource/lists-of-medical-equipment-dealers-in-bc/>

For further information on SCI BC programs and services check out our website at www.sci-bc.ca

Disclaimer: SCI BC will attempt to keep content information as up to date and current as possible. SCI BC does not make any representation with respect to the quality of the service or products and the customer is responsible for making all necessary inquiries to protect themselves before contracting, utilizing or products

Spinal Cord Injury BC 780 SW Marine Drive, Vancouver, BC V6P 5Y7

Funding:

Your OT can help you submit your request for funding. OTs are familiar with the funding process for people on PWD and private insurance. Tell your OT what coverage you have and they will help you determine what types of equipment will or will not be covered.

If you have no funding or aren't sure what you might be eligible for, call InfoLine at 1 800 689-2477 to discuss your options or have a look at our list of alternative funding sources. <https://sci-bc.ca/resource/equipment-funding-sources-in-bc/>

While it is possible to buy used or second hand equipment, please be cautious and ensure that the equipment will meet your seating needs. <https://sci-bc.ca/marketplace/>

Useful References:

College of Occupational Therapists of British Columbia
Check the registration of your OT and find out more about OT services.
<https://cotbc.org/you-and-your-ot/is-your-ot-registered/>

For further information on SCI BC programs and services check out our website at www.sci-bc.ca

Disclaimer: SCI BC will attempt to keep content information as up to date and current as possible. SCI BC does not make any representation with respect to the quality of the service or products and the customer is responsible for making all necessary inquiries to protect themselves before contracting, utilizing or products

Spinal Cord Injury BC 780 SW Marine Drive, Vancouver, BC V6P 5Y7