

WEDNESDAY
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MAY 6TH

PRESYMPOSIUM WORKSHOP

11

Guidelines for prescription: demonstration of assesment and casting for custom moulded seating inserts for people with complex support requirements

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The provision of custom moulded support for seating is often controversial. At times it provokes strong opinions about the efficacy of this means of supporting people with the more complex requirements. It is not only the method of support that provokes discussion but the material used to make the mould that may cause much debate. Many people working in the field will be familiar with comments such as 'I've tried it and it doesn't work', a generalism often applied to all custom moulded support. This view may equally be applied to the particular material used, for example, in relation to the matrix system.

There are many reasons for the failure of custom moulded support. Perhaps the most commonly found are that the system is not suitable for the particular circumstances or that the configuration of the support does not match the postural shape of the individual concerned.

The aim of this workshop is to clarify some of the misconceptions attached to the provision of custom moulded support systems and to provide guidelines for prescription and successful provision of this type of support .

The term 'customized support' in the context of this workshop refers to moulded systems made specifically for an individual. The people for whom this type of support is prescribed are people with complex postural support needs, such as those with significant deformity (Pope 2007).

The workshop will cover:

- The characteristics and application of the different materials from which a mould can be made.
- Criteria for prescription together with the limitations and contra-indications for use.
- The need for comprehensive assessment prior to prescription and the critical measures essential to the making of a successful mould.
- A step by step approach to the process of producing the mould.
- Demonstration of assessment of a suitable client followed by discussion of the findings.
- Demonstration of casting the client for a moulded system, followed by discussion of the most appropriate material from which to make the mould for the particular client.

If time permits the importance of addressing postural support at night-time will be mentioned.

