

SECURE[®] Convex Pommel Cushion

Purpose • Facts About Pommel Cushions

Purpose:

The Secure[®] Convex Pommel Cushion is designed to:

- Prevent residents/patients from sliding and thrusting their hips forward.
- Promote proper hip and knee alignment.
- Eliminate wheelchair sling-seat 'hammocking'.
- Increase seating comfort and stability.
- Prevent hip dislocation during post hip fracture recovery.
- Allow ROM exercises to knees/hips while maintaining hip/knee alignment.



Facts About Pommel Cushions

What is a pommel cushion?

A pommel cushion prevents a wheelchair resident/patient from sliding down and possibly falling out of wheelchair.

What are the indications for pommel cushions?

The two main indications for pommel cushions are:

1. Posture support

- For residents/patients who have weak trunk muscles, weak muscles of the lower extremities or altered mental status and tend to slide down in their wheelchairs.
- Pommel cushions help prevent forward sliding and decreases the risk of falls from the wheelchair.

2. Hip positioning

- For residents/patients with spasticity of the lower extremities or post hip fracture surgery to maintain hip and knee alignment when seated in a wheelchair.

CAUTION

The Secure[®] Convex Pommel Cushion is not intended as a restraint. Use the pommel cushion only with residents/patients who can easily get off the pommel cushion and exit wheelchair on their own without staff member assistance.

If the resident has the ability to get out of a wheelchair unassisted but is unable to do so with the pommel cushion in place, this is consistent with the definition of physical restraints (any manual method or physical or mechanical device, material, or equipment adjacent to the resident's/patient's body that the individual cannot remove easily which restricts freedom of movement).

Despite not being totally 'restraint free', with frail and chronically ill patients/residents, appropriate use of the pommel cushion may allow someone to sit without sliding onto the floor or slumping into an uncomfortable position. Under these circumstances, the pommel cushions should be care planned as a restraint.

- Staff identifies how the pommel cushion is relevant to a specific health condition for that individual and fully assesses the need for the cushion.
- Staff only uses the pommel cushion as a temporary measure to treat health condition and only if the benefits outweigh the risks and there is not another safer or less restrictive alternative.



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