

## **Scooters or Power Wheelchairs - When clients are trying to decide**

Considerations:

- **Where does the client see themselves using the device?** *The level of outdoor use versus indoor use will naturally guide you to better selections with each category.*
- **What are those environments and how will the product be used?** *Going outdoors to the mall is much different than outdoors in rural Alberta and so knowing exactly where they would like to be will make a difference in how aggressive the suspension will need to be in either category.*
- **Distance?** *A smaller battery is fine for the mall and bigger batteries (And models of the devices) are needed to do those 20 km - 25 km distances.*
- **Is this occasional or everyday use?** *This will also determine which models in each category will be best for the client.*
- **Does the client plan to transport it? If so, how?** *There are limitations on size and weight capacity for lifts and what type of vehicles can transport both categories.*
- **Does the client have any upper body weaknesses? Positional needs overall?** *This may guide you towards power wheelchairs as they will find it challenging to maintain the position of their arms on the tiller of the scooter. Also, scooters are limited in what specialized seating is available for extra positional needs.*
- **Storage Area? Where can the device recharge?** *A lack of space may sway the decision.*
- **Are accessories required?** *Depending on what the client requires with baskets, canes, crutches, etc, one device can be better than the other.*
- **What's the budget?** *If the client is paying privately and on a relatively limited budget, they may get more of what they want in a scooter. However, If they are looking at funding through an agency, the client will need to abide by the agencies' parameters.*

**Ultimately, the best choice will depend on factors such as the individual's physical abilities, lifestyle, and the environments in which they will be using the mobility aid.**

## **What are the best attributes**

### **Scooters**

While sometimes used around the home, mobility scooters are mainly used when traveling out in the community, longer trips, and even on vacation. They are ideal in places where a lot of walking is generally required; such as large supportive living facilities, grocery stores, airports, malls, centers, arenas, zoos, or amusement parks.

Most designs come equipped with suspension and more rugged wheels for a smooth ride over most terrains. For those who fatigue easily or have limited mobility and want to stay active, a scooter gives the ability to do it. It's also become a more acceptable form of eco-travel around the community with people ditching the idea of cars anyways.

Scooters having a longer base are more stable front to back and they also are slightly smoother/nicer to drive. Scooters are generally easier to operate and the learning curve is typically shorter, relative to power wheelchairs.

### **Power Wheelchairs**

Most clients who have moderate to severe medical conditions or very limited mobility generally would benefit best with a power wheelchair. Most often users find themselves spending an extended amount of time utilizing the chair and rely on it to complete everyday tasks. Whether it's a person who is challenged to complete daily tasks or someone who is severely limited in movement, powerchairs enable users to enjoy a higher level of independence to live life on their terms.

Power wheelchairs are more versatile than a scooter which allows them to be in more environments, especially indoors and in tight outdoor situations. Like scooters, they have the ability to be on the grass, dirt, and many rural areas around Alberta.

They are also more customizable which allows the client to have a better seating set up and even address pressure redistribution strategies like tilt and recline if need be. Postural support is especially important for people with disease progression and gravity assisted positioning will be beneficial over time.

## **What are the worst attributes**

### **Scooters**

Scooters are still more limited, relatively speaking. Only the travel and foldable ones can work inside, but still aren't great even if they can make it work and those ones aren't great outside. It's like the client really needs to ask that question of how much outside use do they require and do they require anything for the inside? Comparably, a power wheelchair works with both environments better.

Scooters may seem like the better option, especially in the short run, but if the client potentially isn't able to use it in a year's time, money/time/energy is probably used better to set up a power wheelchair that will be ideal in the long run.

If transportation is required, it can be challenging if the client does not have accessibility options or the means to set up a travel/transportation solution.

### **Power Wheelchairs**

While an electric wheelchair is a technological marvel and a Canadian invention, it certainly isn't the best choice in all situations. Sometimes clients never really get used to the joystick controller and aren't appropriate for safety reasons. Power wheelchairs are generally a rougher ride as more of the client's weight is over the drive wheelchair and with less of a foot print overall, the vibrations are felt more in a power wheelchair.

With cost generally being higher with a power wheelchair, the client should really focus on a power wheelchair being a long term investment. Most power wheelchairs can go 10 years with just a battery change every 3-5 years and following an annual maintenance program.

If transportation is required, it can be challenging if the client does not have accessibility options or the means to set up a travel/transportation solution.

# Types of Scooters:

## Travel

Go-Go Travel	Go-Go Folding
 A black and red four-wheeled motorized scooter with a black seat, armrests, and a front basket. The brand name 'Pride' is visible on the seat backrest.	 A black and white four-wheeled motorized scooter with a black seat and armrests. It is shown in its folded state, with the front wheel and handlebars collapsed. The brand name 'Pride' is visible on the seat backrest.

## Flat surfaces

Zero Turn	Revo
 A black four-wheeled motorized scooter with a black seat, armrests, and a front basket. The brand name 'Pride' is visible on the seat backrest.	 A black four-wheeled motorized scooter with a black seat, armrests, and a front basket. The brand name 'Pride' is visible on the seat backrest. Below the scooter, the text 'FDA Class II Medical Device*' is printed.

**Indoor/Outdoor**

Victory Series	Pursuit ES
 A blue and black four-wheeled mobility scooter with a black seat, a black basket on the front, and a black steering column. The scooter has a black base and silver wheels.	 A blue and black four-wheeled mobility scooter with a black seat, a black steering column, and a wire basket on the front. The scooter has a black base and silver wheels.

**Outdoor**

Pursuit XL	Baja Series
 A red and black four-wheeled mobility scooter with a black seat, a black steering column, and a black basket on the front. The scooter has a black base and silver wheels.	 A black and tan four-wheeled mobility scooter with a black seat, a black steering column, and a black basket on the front. The scooter has a black base and silver wheels.

## Types of Power Wheelchair:

### Travel

Jazzy Carbon	Go Chair
 <p>The image shows two views of the Jazzy Carbon power wheelchair. On the left, the wheelchair is fully unfolded and shown from a front-three-quarter perspective. It has a black seat, black backrest, and black frame. The brand name 'PRIDE' is visible on the backrest. On the right, the wheelchair is shown in its compact, folded state, demonstrating its portability for travel.</p>	 <p>The image shows the Pride Go Chair power wheelchair from a front-three-quarter perspective. It features a black seat and backrest with the 'Pride' logo on the backrest. The chair has a blue and black base with 'GO CHAIR' written on the side. It has a control panel on the left armrest and a footrest. The wheelchair is shown in its unfolded state.</p>

Flat Surfaces

Evo Series	M1
 <p>A black and red electric wheelchair with a high backrest and armrests. The seat has 'PRIDE' written on it. It has large rear wheels and smaller front wheels.</p>	 <p>A black and green electric wheelchair with a high backrest and armrests. It has large rear wheels and smaller front wheels.</p>

Indoor/Outdoor

M3	F3	M5	F5
 <p>A black and red electric wheelchair with a high backrest and armrests. It has large rear wheels and smaller front wheels.</p>	 <p>A black and green electric wheelchair with a high backrest and armrests. It has large rear wheels and smaller front wheels.</p>	 <p>A black and red electric wheelchair with a high backrest and armrests. It has large rear wheels and smaller front wheels.</p>	 <p>A black and teal electric wheelchair with a high backrest and armrests. It has large rear wheels and smaller front wheels.</p>
Q6 Edge	Rival	TDX-SP2	Aviva
 <p>A black and red electric wheelchair with a high backrest and armrests. It has large rear wheels and smaller front wheels.</p>	 <p>A black and blue electric wheelchair with a high backrest and armrests. It has large rear wheels and smaller front wheels.</p>	 <p>A black and teal electric wheelchair with a high backrest and armrests. It has large rear wheels and smaller front wheels.</p>	 <p>A black and teal electric wheelchair with a high backrest and armrests. It has large rear wheels and smaller front wheels.</p>

Outdoor

Frontier V6	Extreme X8
	

**Comparison of Power Wheelchair Drive Wheel Location - Front, Middle, Rear Wheel Drive**

Use this to determine which drive wheel is best if the client is choosing a power wheelchair. Again, environments and how much indoor/outdoor use will help guide the decision. Traction is best with rear wheel and front wheel and mid wheel has the best turning radius and maneuverability. Please see the link for a wonderful chart that explains all the factors further.

[https://www.health.qld.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0028/428482/pdwc-comparison.pdf](https://www.health.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0028/428482/pdwc-comparison.pdf)