



Wheelchair Clinic

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No relevant financial relationships to disclose

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Employed by Reliable Medical Supply, durable medical equipment vendor

This information is disclosed in the interest of transparency. No financial relationships influenced the education content of this presentation.

Learning Objectives

At the end of this presentation, participants will:

- › Identify the purpose of a wheelchair clinic
- › List goals for new wheelchair equipment
- › Describe what is involved in a complete wheelchair clinic

What is a Wheelchair Clinic?

The process of completing an **evaluation** with an individual for the attainment of **specialized equipment** necessary for their **mobility, seating and positioning needs**

Steps to Obtaining Wheelchair Equipment

1. Physician referral and face-to-face
2. OT/PT specialty evaluation & Assessment
3. Provider selected
4. Equipment evaluation
5. Recommendations & selection
6. Coordinate necessary documentation
7. Approval is decided by funding source
8. Return to OT/PT for fitting and training
9. Provider Delivers Equipment
10. Education on maintenance, repairs, and follow-up

What does a Wheelchair Clinic consist of?

- › Medical History
 - › thorough medical history to help identify key information, such as primary diagnosis and main deficits to help the team best support patient's needs.
- › Mat Evaluation
 - › Supine and sitting assessment
 - › ROM/Strength/Tone assessment
 - › Attainment of body measurements
- › Equipment Evaluation
 - › Demos and Trials
- › Reviewing identified equipment and collaborating with the team to finalize wheelchair order
- › Complete necessary documentation

Goals for New Wheelchair Equipment

- › Maximize independence and safety in the home and community
- › Improve posture and function in the wheelchair
- › Prevent secondary medical, orthopedic and skin problems caused by improper seating

Equipment Assessed

- › Custom Manual Wheelchairs
 - > -rigid vs. folding frame
- › Power wheelchairs
 - > Basic Power wheelchairs
 - POV or scooters
 - Group 2 Power wheelchairs
 - > Complex power wheelchairs
- › Seating Systems
 - > cushions
 - > backrests

Who is involved in a wheelchair clinic?

- › Patient
- › Caregiver/family members
- › Licensed Occupational or Physical Therapist
- › Assistive Technology professional (ATP)
- › Vendor
 - › Examples include but are not limited to: National Seating and Mobility, NuMotion, etc...
- › Manufacturer Representative- when needed
 - › Examples include but are not limited to: Permobil, SW Medical Reps, Quantum, Stealth, Sunrise Medical

Equipment Evaluation

- ▶ Equipment demos are important to show the patient the equipment that is available to them.
 - ▶ The patient does not necessarily have to trial all equipment, however visual demonstration can be useful to help rule out equipment
 - ▶ Comparing similar equipment side by side and pointing out similarities and differences can help with the decision making process.
- ▶ Trials are important once appropriate equipment has been identified
 - ▶ Assessing transfers in and out of equipment is important to determine safety and independence levels
 - ▶ Assessing ability to self propel manual wheelchair or drive power wheelchair around various spaces and surfaces is crucial to determine efficacy of equipment being trialed.
 - ▶ Trials with lower level pieces of equipment can help justify equipment being prescribed
 - ▶ Trials with recommended seating systems are important to determine functionality, positioning, and comfort.

Transportation is Crucial

	Power Wheelchair	Manual Wheelchair
Equipment Weight	80-450+ lbs	25-80 lbs
Standard Car	Maybe depending on PWC	Can be transported in most standard cars
Equipment Required for Transport	Ramp Mechanical or electric lift	None
Transport when Occupied	Often but not always ride in wheelchair	Often but not always transfer out of wheelchair
Vehicle Options	Personal Adapted Van Uber Taxi Standard public Transit Paratransit (MetroLift in Houston)	Personal vehicle Uber Taxi Standard Public Transit Paratransit (MetroLift in Houston)

Documentation

- › Letter of Medical Necessity written by OT/PT.
 - › LMN must then be signed by referring physician
- › Signed LMN forwarded to vendor
- › Equipment packet compiled by vendor and submitted to insurance for approval
- › If approved, equipment ordered.
- › If denied, equipment goes through appeal process. An addendum providing additional justification or an appeal letter is written.

Delivery and Fitting

Home Setting	Clinic Setting
Convenient	Requires more individuals to schedule
No Transportation Required	Transportation can be a barrier
Fitting may or may not be done by experienced ATP/tech	Fitting is done in team setting with therapist and ATP
If additional changes or modifications are required, additional time/appointments are required.	Adjustments/modifications can be completed at time of delivery
Improved outcomes with new equipment	

Modifications and Repairs

- › Issues with
 - > Backrest
 - > Cushions
 - discomfort
 - pressure sores
 - > Other wheelchair components
- › Patients are required to get reassessed if changes are being made to originally prescribed equipment
 - > Pressure Mapping
 - > New equipment trials
- › If no changes are being made and only repairs or replacement equipment is being requested, the patient does not need to return to the clinic.

Our Mission

We are a non-profit, values-driven, community-owned health system dedicated to improving health.



Our Vision

To create healthier communities, now and for generations to come.



Our Values

Community

Compassion

Courage

Credibility



Our Service Commitment

We care for every member of our community by creating compassionate and personalized experiences.



Our Service Standards

Safe

Caring

Personalized

Efficient

CORE MISSION PILLARS



CLINICAL
CARE



RESEARCH



EDUCATION



ADVOCACY

MISSION: At TIRR Memorial Hermann, our mission is to empower individuals who have experienced a life-altering injury or illness through our innovative rehabilitation and research programs. Our landmark advances in clinical care, research, education and advocacy are transforming the lives of our patients and their loved ones.

VISION: TIRR Memorial Hermann changes lives by redefining rehabilitation, championing inclusion and offering hope for those impacted by a life-altering injury or illness.

OUTCOMES

Though we accept the challenge of some of the most complex outcomes – for a year to date



case mix index of **1.90,**

our year to date

rate of discharge to community is **74%**

RESEARCH



Our nearly **\$24 MILLION***

in research funding

allows us to continue to advance rehabilitation practices for present and future patients.

2

nationally recognized model systems of research and care for:

Spinal Cord Injury

Traumatic Brain Injury

RECOGNITION

NATIONALLY-RANKED for over 30 YEARS

RANKED AS A LEADER BY US WORLD AND NEWS REPORT

DESIGNATED AS A

“NATIONAL REHABILITATION INNOVATION CENTER”



TIRR
MEMORIAL
HERMANN
Rehabilitation & Research

EDUCATION/CERTIFICATIONS

As part of our commitment to ensuring the most advanced care,



MORE THAN

70%

of our clinical staff

have advanced certifications.

ADVOCACY

Our Department of Independent Living Research Utilization (ILRU) has a

40-year

history of providing research, education and consultation in the areas of independent living, home and community-based services and the ADA.

VOLUME



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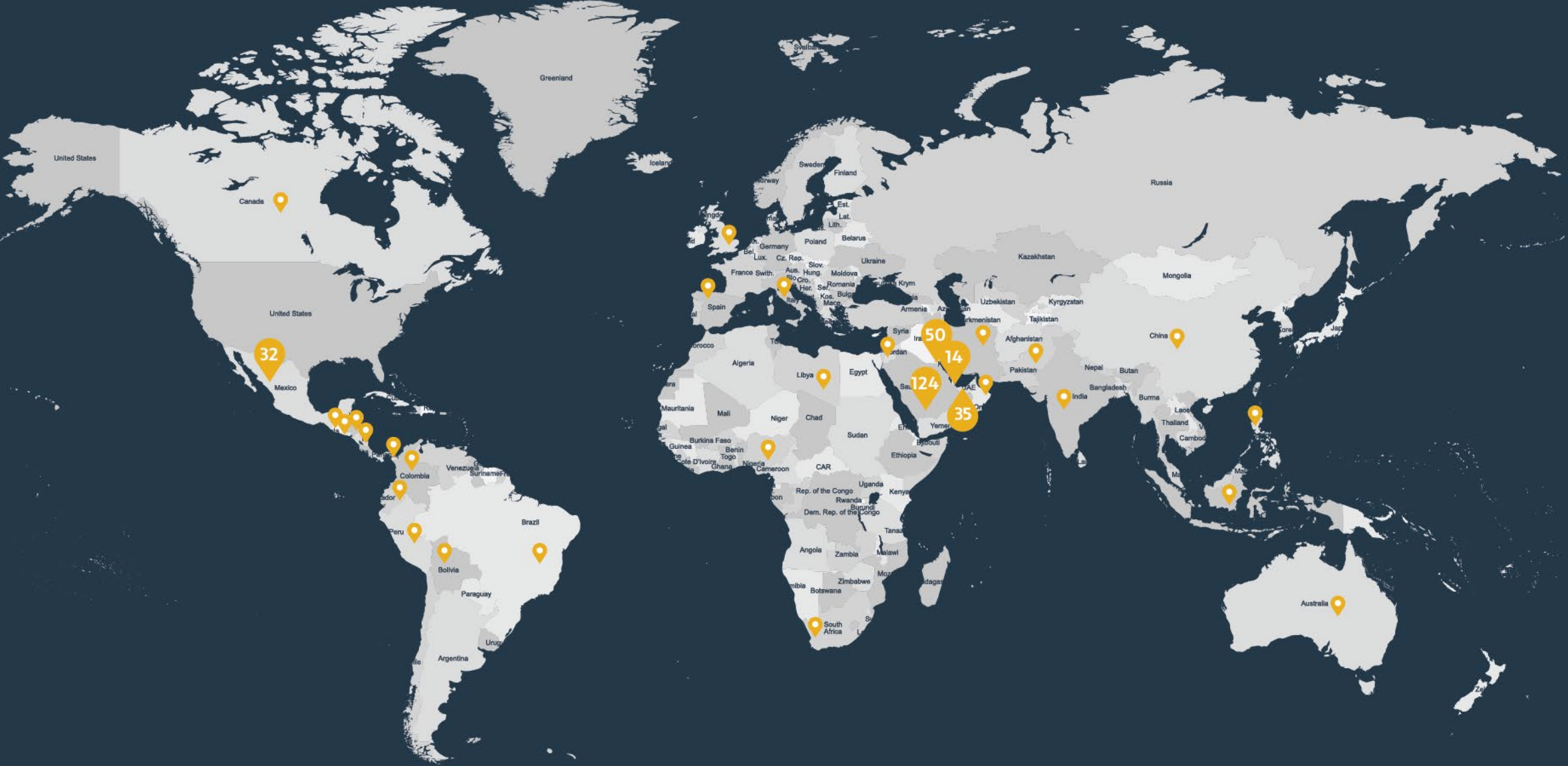
beds across the rehabilitation network



30%

of referrals are national/international

Traveling for the best care – Internationally





Thank You

