AATC 2018

Australian Assistive Technology Conference - Experiences, Opportunities and Innovation

**ABSTRACT**

**Title: Passenger vehicle modifications for clients with Progressive Neurological Diseases: Considerations for both Therapists and Clients.**

**Introduction:**

Clients with a Progressive Neurological Disease (PND) may lose the ability to independently transfer in and out of a vehicle. A modified vehicle enables individuals to regain their freedom without reliance on other modes of transport.

It is essential to consider whether proposed modifications will suit the client now and into the future. This is especially important for clients with a PND.

**Aim:**

We will share our experiences of prescribing passenger vehicle modifications for clients with a PND and outline considerations for clients and therapists to ensure the most appropriate decision is reached.

There are many factors to consider when investigating appropriate vehicle modifications for a client, these factors include and are not limited to:

* Diagnosis and prognosis/disease progression
* Carer supports
* Type of vehicle required
* Funding options
* Other transport options
* Psycho-social and emotional aspects

Certain passenger vehicle modifications can be appropriate for use in early-mid stages of a PND. Discussing the limitations of these modifications with clients can be challenging for clinicians as some modifications can have limited longevity.

**Outcome:**

The OT’s at our service have assisted many clients to access appropriate passenger vehicle modifications.

We identified that our clients and fellow OT’s could benefit from the development of a clinical reasoning guide when making the decision on an appropriate passenger vehicle modification.

This passenger vehicle modification guideline aims to ensure clients with PNDs achieve functionally appropriate, timely and cost effective vehicle modifications. This can result in provision of a modification that enhances community living, quality of life and social participation.