Title:

Dynamic Arm support prescription for a paediatric client with Spinal Muscular Atrophy

Abstract

Aims

To present real life experience of prescribing a dynamic arm support for a 9 year old boy with Spinal Muscular Atrophy

To discuss and explore the challenges experienced through this prescription and identify learnings with applications for future prescriptions of this type.

Overview

Potential need for Dynamic arm support identified and several option trialled. Recommendation for arm support was occurring concurrently to prescription of new powered wheelchair. There was extensive consultation between different suppliers and therapists involved in the supply and prescription of different components of these, however there were still issues with mounting of the Dynamic Arm Support to the new Power Wheelchair. There was also a need to adjust the set-up of the dynamic arm support and for the user to learn how to use this item in conjunction with other Assistive Technology. Changes in the client function and physical presentation during period of the case study provided further challenges. Revised Upper Limb Module for Spinal Muscular Atrophy was used as an outcomes measure as well as achievement of functional goals identified by the client at the beginning of the prescription process.

Outcomes

There were some difficulties encountered initially with mounting of the arm support and fitting to paediatric client, however as these were overcome and 4 of 5 functional goals were achieved. There have also been some issues with use at school and maintenance, these will also be discussed with recommendations for things to consider for future prescriptions.