Assistive Technology for Mobility for the Geriatric Patient

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Learning Objectives

1) Name 7 different assistive technologies for mobility
2) Link to a key resource for locating relevant products
3) Discuss a process for identifying the AT needs of adults
What are we talking about?

• **Assistive technology (AT)** is generally defined internationally as: Any item, piece of equipment or product systems, whether acquired commercially, off the shelf, modified or customized, that is used to increase, maintain or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

• **Technologies for mobility** is just one category of AT.
ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGIES FOR MOBILITY

… range from highly complex technology to simple adjustments that can make life more dignified, remove barriers and change lives.
• Canes, guide canes and symbol canes for orientation, walking sticks
• Walkers, with seats or tables
• Seats that can be added to canes, walking frames, rollators and walking tables that can support the weight of the person using the assistive product for walking
• Manual and power wheelchairs and such accessories as baskets, pouches, hooks, lay trays, tables, bags, holders for oxygen units, holders for umbrellas.
• Transfer boards
• Hoists and lifts
• Commode chairs
• Shower chairs
• Relief maps
• GPS
How to find products?

- https://www.atvisor.ai/en
People use a Combination of:

- Specialized Technologies (AT)
- Off-the-Shelf Technologies
- Personal Assistance
- Strategies
Technology certainly is an important resource, but...
We need to focus less on TECHNOLOGY and more on the its match with the PERSON who is the user.
Support (AT and CST) Selection Framework

**Environmental Factors**
- Availability of Products
- Affordability of Products
- Availability of appropriate professionals
- Opportunities and services
- Cultural and Financial Priorities
- Legislation & Policy
- Attitudes of Key Others
- Support from Family/Friends & Significant Others
- Financial Assets

**Personal Factors**
- Experiences:
  - Handling challenges
  - Healthcare system
  - Technologies
- Knowledge and Information
- Expectations
- Personal Preferences and Priorities

**Support Decision-Making & Selection**
- Assessment of Functional Need
  (‘Objective Need’)
- Assessment of Predisposition
  (‘Subjective Need’)

**Comparison & Trial use**
- Support Comparison
- Support Modification
  (if needed, desired)
- New or Modified Training

**Follow-Up**
- Use
- Realization of benefit
- Enhanced performance of activities
- Enhanced participation
- Subjective well-being

A successful outcome begins early with selecting the most appropriate AT for a person. How can we best do that?
Targeted Solutions
The Matching Person and Technology Assessment Process and Forms

http://matchingpersonandtechnology.com
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