

Best Practice Panel: Clinical Guidelines to Assist with Evaluation and Recommendations for DME-related to Pregnancy, Lactation, and Parenting

Course ID 160

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Approximately 20% of people in the USA who have a spinal cord injury are women and 14% will become pregnant after their injury. These individuals require unique counseling and assessment for adaptive equipment before, during and after their pregnancies to achieve safe functional and parenting outcomes. In addition, many more individuals, regardless of sex or gender identity, are parents before or after their injuries. Providing for the physical needs of a child for those with limited or impaired mobility can present unique challenges. Adaptive equipment, environments and creative thinking can help provide improved ability to care for children safely. Adaptations can include equipment for feeding, changing, bathing, and bonding with a baby or child. In addition, therapists can work with an individual to identify equipment to work on balance and mobility while holding/transporting a baby, pushing a stroller, or identifying appropriate childcare related furniture to optimize safety for both parent and child. While many products are available commercially, some products may need to be created or adapted. Rehabilitation centers with wheelchair and seating clinics, 3D printers, or other services such as rehabilitation engineering can often make custom pieces of equipment. This course aims to highlight the functional assessment of individuals with SCI/D as it relates to the lifespan of parenting from pre-pregnancy assessment to lactation assistance and parenting for all individuals with SCI/D. Draft Agenda :00 – 0:05 – Introduction (Cassie) :05-0:26 – Pregnancy evaluation and Medical considerations for DME evaluation (Cassie and Stephanie) :26 – 0:38 – Lactation and Feeding evaluation DME (Maryam) :38 – 0:50 – Parenting evaluation and DME (Allison) :50- 0:60 – Discussion and Questions (All)

Learning Objective 1 Assess the neurological and functional status of a pregnant individual with SCI/D and be able to evaluate for additional DME for their safety and function

Learning Objective 2 Assist lactating individuals with SCI/D with appropriate DME to facilitate lactation, breast and bottle feeding

Learning Objective 3 Evaluate the neurological and functional status of an individual with SCI/D and make recommendations for childcare devices which will enhance their ability to participate in parenting activities safely for both the individual and child.