

Who Cares

Are you restricted by a decline in physical mobility? This can bring a lack of independence such as having to rely on other people for necessary journeys to the shops, GP surgery, or to keep other commitments; this may cause feelings of isolation and depression. Mobility scooters can provide a solution; they are simple to use, easy to maintain and economical to run. It is advisable to conduct in-depth research before buying to ensure that you purchase the scooter that is most suitable to your needs. It may be a good idea to talk to an occupational therapist about your needs before visiting a shop, for example, three-wheeler scooters can be less stable for heavier people. Think carefully about your personal requirements from a scooter; does it need to fit into the boot of a car? Do you need a swivel seat for ease of access?

Some other points to consider may be:

- Does the company offer an assessment if required? Some shops employ an occupational therapist who can offer expert advice on the right type and model for customers.
- Will they assemble the scooter when delivered?
- Will they complete a safety check and demonstrate the scooter?
- Does the company offer a full warranty, and will they visit you should anything break? Some companies will require the scooter to be sent back to the manufacturer in the original packaging to be repaired, you may have to pay for the postage.
- If the equipment proves to be unsuitable will they offer an exchange for a more suitable model?

It is a good idea to bear the above points in mind when buying other types of disability aids, such as riser/recliner chairs and beds. Carers Outreach Service produces a free fact sheet entitled 'Home Safety, Useful Aids and Equipment.' For more information telephone us on 01248 370797 or email us at help@carersoutreach.org.uk.

The Disability Resource Centre at Glan Clwyd Hospital provides a scooter repair service and will also hire scooters and other equipment. They are organising a Mobility Scooter Fun Day on Saturday 8 June. For more details telephone 01745 341967.