

ACCESSIBILITY: AVAILABILITY AND USE OF ASSISTIVE DEVICES FOR SERVING CLIENTS WITH DISABILITIES

POLICY:

Pembroke Regional Hospital (PRH) is committed to meeting the Accessibility needs of all persons with disabilities in accordance with the Integrated Accessibility Standards O.Reg. 191/11 under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2005*.

PREAMBLE:

There are a variety of assistive devices that people with disabilities may use or require. Assistive devices allow persons with disabilities to communicate, mobilize, and perform activities of daily living independently. These devices may be owned by the individual or provided by the hospital.

DEFINITIONS:

Assistive Devices:

An assistive device is a tool, technology, or other mechanism that enables a person with a disability to do everyday tasks and activities such as moving, communicating, or lifting. It helps the person to maintain his/her independence at home, at work, and in the community.

Although the hospital cannot be responsible for personal belongings, patients/clients can bring their personal assistive device with them to the hospital. Individuals may be more comfortable using a device that is familiar.

Items and Location:

- Automatic door openers – located in various areas including: cafeteria entrance, entrance Towers A, B and C, between ICU and Emergency Departments and Tower D
- Elevators – two (2) each serving Towers A and B, and one (1) serving Tower C, (1) Tower D
- Accessible washrooms – located at main entrance Tower B, and at the entrance to Tower A, Tower D
- White boards – available at all patient bedsides
- Mobility devices:
 - Manual wheelchairs are available on all clinical units and in clinical support areas such as Diagnostic Imaging and at all main entrances

The Rehabilitation Program is the primary location of all other assistive devices and mobility aids:

- Speech amplifiers
- Hearing amplifiers
- Augmentative communication devices
- Wheeled and non-wheeled walkers
- Specialized wheelchairs
- Assistive devices for activities of daily living e.g. transfers, personal hygiene, dressing
- Telephone amplifier

NOTE: Some of these devices require an assessment by a health care professional. Please consult an occupational therapist, speech language pathologist, or physiotherapist.

REFERENCES:

Accessibility Standards for Customer Service, Ontario Regulation 429/07. Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA).