



Diocese of Middlesbrough Lourdes Pilgrimage

Wheelchair Risk Assessment

Name of originator/author: Mark Taylor
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Date Reviewed: May 2026
Date next review due: May 2028

Identify the Hazards

List of Hazards:
Individuals becoming injured when the using the wheelchair which include;
Falling or being tipped from a wheelchair
Entrapment of limbs which could result in broken bones
Tripping over foot rests
Skin tears, cuts, bruises
Individuals being restrained

Assessing the Risks

Who is at risk?
Individual using the wheelchair
Assisting person(s)

Severity of outcome			Likelihood of occurrence		
Minor 1	Serious 2	Critical 3	Unlikely 1	2 possible	Probable 3

Assessment of risk (Multiply severity by likelihood)

Low 1-3	Medium 4-5	High 6-9
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Determining the Controls

Existing precautions & controls:	Are they sufficient (yes/no-comments)
All individuals using a wheelchair for transportation will have their mental capacity assessed at the time of assessment. If it is identified that an individual lacks capacity to understand the risks associated with the safe use of wheelchairs then a best interest decision will be implemented and risk assessed individually and appropriately.	Yes
When using a wheelchair for transportation the safety belt will be used to prevent the individual from falling from the wheelchair. Consent must be obtained by the individual before applying the seatbelt. If the individual has capacity to decline the use of the safety belt then the risks associated with this are to be relayed to them but their decision respected.	Yes
To prevent an individual being restrained in the wheelchair, when stationary, the lap safety belt is to be removed. If the individual has capacity and chooses to keep the seatbelt on then the volunteer is to respect this decision.	Yes
When the wheelchair is stationary then the brakes must be applied to prevent the wheelchair rolling away or being pushed away if the individual attempts to stand up.	Yes
When an individual is being transported in a wheelchair the footplates must be in position to prevent legs, feet and ankles becoming trapped in the wheelchair which could result in a serious injury.	Yes

When in a stationary position the footplates should be removed or folded away to prevent the individual standing on them and tipping the wheelchair. This will also prevent them from tripping over the footplates, which could lead to injury. However, if the individual has mental capacity and chooses for the footplates to remain in position (for reasons such as comfort or postural support), then the volunteer is to remind them of the risks but respect this decision.

Yes

What additional control measures are required?

If any of the above safety controls cannot be maintained or the individual chooses not to follow the safety instructions/uses then the volunteer is to be vigilant of the potential risks and monitor the individual's safety closely.

Person conducting the risk assessment – Mark Taylor

Date – May 2026

To be reviewed annually and changes made as required