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# Wheelchairs User Guide



Contemporary Designs

Lightweight Chairs

Transporters

Bariatric

**my mobility**

Selected by Hills Healthcare for Australian users

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## **INTRODUCTION**

We at K•Care would like to thank you for selecting one of our wheelchairs

The K•Care range of wheelchairs are manufactured from chrome plated mild steel, with vinyl upholstery. Safe maximum user weights are as follows.

- W28 – 120 kilograms
- W78 – 140 kilograms
- W78T – 140 kilograms

Your new wheelchair should provide years of trouble free use, provided you read and implement the recommendations in this manual.

Please take the time to read this manual and familiarise yourself with the features and functions of your chair before operating it for the first time. If you have any queries about the functions of this wheelchair, or are interested in another product in our extensive range, please contact your local K•Care Distributor or place of purchase for details.

## **PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS**

### **Models W28**

- Overall Width (when open) – 670mm
- Overall Width (when folded) – 310mm
- Floor to Top of Seat at Front – 500mm
- Seat Width – 450mm
- Seat Depth – 400mm
- Floor to Push Handles – 900mm
- 24-inch rear pneumatic wheels or 12-inch pneumatic wheels on transporter models
- 8-inch front solid castors
- Removable padded top arm rests (where fitted)
- Removable, swing away leg rests

### **Models W78, W78T**

- Overall Width (when open) – 720mm
- Seat Width – 500mm
- Floor to push handles – 1000mm
- All other specifications as above

## **INCLUDED EXTRAS**

With your wheelchair you should find the following accessories.

- 1x Leg rest adjustment tool.
- 1x Phillips head screwdriver.
- 1x Velcro heel strap (All models excluding the W88 wheelchair)

## **ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS**

Assembly of the wheelchair is quite simple as it is almost completely pre-assembled by the manufacturer.

- Firstly, remove the plastic bag from the chair, and open the wheelchair up.
- Then take the swing away leg rests out of the cardboard box, insert leg rests onto the two locating pins, and swing them in for automatic locking.
- The Velcro heel strap has a loop on one end; slide this over its guiding pin located on the rear of one of the swing away leg rest shafts, and Velcro the other end onto the guiding pin on the other swing away leg rest.
- Before using your wheelchair for the first time, ensure tyre pressures are correct and brakes function correctly.

## **PLEASE NOTE**

The K•Care range of wheelchairs have been designed with general-purpose use in mind and are suitable for both indoor and outdoor environments. However, it is not intended to be used as a heavy duty device; therefore we recommend that it be kept away from prolonged exposure to extreme conditions such as direct sunlight, extremes of temperature. Also, due to its mild steel construction, it is not to be used in excessively wet environments (e.g. shower) or left out in the rain.

## **FOLDING AND OPENING INSTRUCTIONS**

### **Folding**

- Before folding, flip up footplates to the vertical position.
- Grasp the seat upholstery by the stitched in handles on the seat and lift upwards.

### **Opening**

- Take your position at the front of the wheelchair.
- Press down in the centre of the upholstery bars.

## **TRANSPORTING YOUR CHAIR**

K•Care does not recommend that you travel in a vehicle whilst sitting in your wheelchair. Where possible, wheelchair occupants should be transferred into a seat and use the proper vehicle seat restraints. However, if you wish your chair to be transported in a vehicle, your vehicle wheelchair restraint system must comply with AS2942-1994.

## **COMMON MISUSE OF MANUAL WHEELCHAIRS**

There are several common misuses of wheelchairs known to K•Care that may lead to personal injury or damage to the wheelchair.

- Picking up the wheelchair by either its removable armrests or removable leg rests may result in damage to the removable items.
- Using the wheelchair when the pneumatic wheels are flat or only partially inflated may lead to tyre tube damage.
- This wheelchair has **not** been designed to be used in a wet environment (shower, pool, etc). Exposure to large amounts or long periods of moisture will lead to the build up of rust.



## **USE OF YOUR MANUAL WHEELCHAIR**

### **Descending/ascending steep gradients**

When transferring either into, or out of the wheelchair, the braking mechanisms must be activated. Using the wheelchair in difficult situations such as steep gradients, side angled pathways and obstacles may be hazardous. We recommend the following methods should be used to avoid tipping over:



**Picture One**



**Picture Two**

- By leaning the body forward, the stability of the wheelchair can be improved greatly when ascending a gradient (as can be seen in Picture One).
- On downward gradients, the back should be in a straight position, with the speed and direction of the wheelchair controlled by the user utilising the push rims, not by riding the brakes (as can be seen in Picture Two).
- Under normal conditions (clean and dry surface with no side angle) it is possible to climb slopes safely of up to thirteen degrees.

### **Crossing kerbs/obstacles**

We recommend that when accessing difficult terrain, unless you are an experienced or strong wheelchair user, that an attendant be present. The attendant can tilt the chair back using the hand grips and the rear tilt bars.

When an attendant is not present, we recommend that you avoid difficult terrain and obstacles such as kerbs, by utilizing provided walkways, wheelchair access points, etc. If these are not available and kerbs need to be accessed, carefully lift the castors over the top of the kerb then ease the rest of the chair forward. This practice should only be attempted by experienced and strong wheelchair users.

### **Descending from kerbs/obstacles**



**Picture Three**



**Picture Four**

Rolling forward and keeping the back in an upright position should allow you to safely descend from a kerb (Picture Three).

Higher obstacles can be dealt with by approaching the kerb in a reverse position. Bring the two large rear wheels to the edge of the obstacle and slowly easing your chair down using the push rim as a steady/brake. Improve your stability by leaning your body forward in the chair throughout this manoeuvre (Picture Four).

## **BREAKDOWN OF MAIN WHEELCHAIR COMPONENTS**



## **LEG RESTS**

The swing away leg rests provided on the K•Care wheelchairs are removable and feature fold up footplates.

### **To remove:**

- Pull lever outwards to allow the leg rest to swing outwards.
- Lift upwards to remove from mounting pins

### **To install:**

- Insert footrest back on the two mounting pins and swing inwards.
- The lever will automatically click into a locked position.

### **To adjust footplates:**

- Remove hexagonal head bolt (with tool provided with your wheelchair).
- Move up or down until desired height is achieved.
- Replace the hexagonal head bolt and tighten.

## **ARM RESTS**

The arm rests provided on our wheelchairs are of full length, and include a full-length padded top arm. The arm rest is removable on most models to assist with side transfer of user, and when positioning the wheelchair close to a table.

### **To remove:**

- Push button and hold in on front of arm socket.
- Using your other hand, lift the arm rest upwards.

### **To install:**

- Replace arm rest into front and rear arm sockets, push button in and arm rest down simultaneously.
- Ensure arm rest is secure by inspecting for button protrusion from hole.
- Never lift the wheelchair by its arm rests as damage may occur.



## **BRAKES**

The brakes should not be used for slowing the wheelchair. Brakes are designed as a locking device only and should be applied when the wheelchair is stationary.

Use the push rims as a means of slowing the wheelchair.

The brakes should be checked on a regular basis, or when you notice that their performance is starting to diminish.

### **Brake Adjustment**

- Check that the large rear tyres have been inflated to a correct pressure before making any brake adjustments.
- Loosen the nut on brake body and adjust the brake so that when the lever is in the locked position the wheel is firmly held by the brake arm.
- Re-tighten the locking nut.
- The bars should not rub against the tyre when the brakes are in the off position.
- If rolling occurs when both brakes have been applied, the brakes have not been adjusted far enough, repeat the above process.

## **LARGE WHEELS 24-INCH**

The large wheels are fitted with sealed ball bearings and with normal use and regular maintenance, should last many years without replacement. The large rear wheel tyres should only be replaced in pairs. Worn and/or under inflated tyres may make the wheelchair difficult to steer and propel, always maintain correctly inflated tyres in order to minimize these problems and to maximize tyre lifespan.

Rear wheels should be inflated to manufacturer's recommended pressure, refer to side wall of tyre for correct pressure settings.

### **To remove large rear wheels**

- Remove dust cap.
- Unscrew the locking nut and unscrew the axle bolt, remove axle bolt.
- To reinstall, reverse the above procedure.

## **FORKS AND CASTORS**

### **To remove fork with castor**

- Remove dust cap.
- Unscrew the locking nut and remove fork with attached castor.
- To reinstall, reverse the above procedure.

## **CLEANING YOUR WHEELCHAIR**

With a regular cleaning routine, you can preserve the appearance of your wheelchair for a very long time. Listed below are some simple procedures that will make cleaning your wheelchair easier.

### **UPHOLSTERY**

The build up of body oils/sweat can cause the soft vinyl to harden up and crack. Cleaning should be performed approximately once a week/fortnight.

#### **To Clean**

- Wipe with a damp soft cloth or sponge, dampen cloth with a mild cleaning agent, such as a non-abrasive, pure soap. Stubborn grime may require gentle scrubbing with a soft brush.
- When finished, dry with a soft cloth.

### **PLEASE NOTE**

Never use furniture polishes, abrasive cleaners or steel wool, on this wheelchair as it may severely damage the finish of the chair.

Regular use of cleaners containing hydrocarbons or similar additives may cause damage to the vinyl and harden the surface.

We recommend that you replace broken upholstery screws immediately to avoid potential tearing of the vinyl.

Ensure stretched, torn or split upholstery is replaced for your safety.

### **FRAME**

#### **To Clean**

- Simply wipe over the frame once a week with a soft cloth and a mild evaporative cleaner such as glass/window cleaner to remove any prints/smudges, this will restore the frame's shiny finish.

## **GENERAL SERVICING**

Approximately every 3 months or so, we recommend that you perform the following routine to maximise the longevity of your wheelchair.

- Check castor/rear wheel play, remove dust caps and ensure area around the axle's locking nut is free of dust and debris.
- Check brakes and adjust if necessary.
- Ensure that all nuts and screws on the frame are tight.
- Check the large rear wheels for loose or broken spokes. An experienced service technician should tighten and repair loose or broken spokes.

If replacement parts are ever required (such as tyres, tubes, footplates, etc), please contact your nearest K•Care distributor for pricing and availability of materials.



## **WARRANTY**

- K•Care warrants our range of wheelchairs for a period of twelve (12) months from date of purchase.
- K•Care or an authorised K•Care Distributor must inspect the product within the warranty period. K•Care is not liable for any costs borne from the shipping of non-conforming product to place of inspection (e.g. distributor address).
- K•Care's warranty does not cover product damaged accidentally through misuse or neglect. K•Care does not warrant product that has been modified from its original form.
- Due to logistical reasons, it is imperative that you contact your place of purchase who will lodge an official complaint/claim on your behalf.

## **K•CARE CONTACT DETAILS**

### **HEAD OFFICE**

#### **K•Care Perth**

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Australia

#### **K•Care Melbourne**

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## **DISTRIBUTER:**

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