

Making Assistive Technology and Rehabilitation Engineering a Sure Bet

Factors Associated with Mobility Device Prescription in Older Adults with Spinal Cord Injury/Dysfunction (SCI/D)

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ABSTRACT:

The purpose of this study was to identify associations between demographics, health related characteristics, and the type of wheelchairs prescribed from the Center for Assistive Technology (CAT) to older adults (age>60) with SCI/D during the years 2007 and 2008. We evaluated for associations within 49 cases of individuals with SCI/D and found that spinal stenosis (47%, n=23) is the primary sub-category of SCI/D among the older population. Prescription of power wheelchairs was significantly higher than that of manual wheelchairs in this population (94% vs. 6%). Significant associations exist between categorical variables: onset of injury (p=.016), primary diagnosis (p=.018), specific SCI (p=.043), client preference for device (p<.001), and the type of mobility device prescribed from CAT. Understanding demographics, health related characteristics and factors associated with the type of prescribed device in older adults with SCI/D can enable clinicians to accurately match the individuals with appropriate mobility device, ensuring standardization and quality in devices prescription.

KEYWORDS:

Older adults, Spinal Cord Injury/Dysfunction, Wheelchairs.

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