

Wheelchair Training Program (WTP) for Rehabilitation and Healthcare Professionals

Program Developer:

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2026 - 2031

Duration: 4 consecutive sessions; 20 contact hours (theoretical, practical)
Hybrid (online, in-person)

Location: TBD

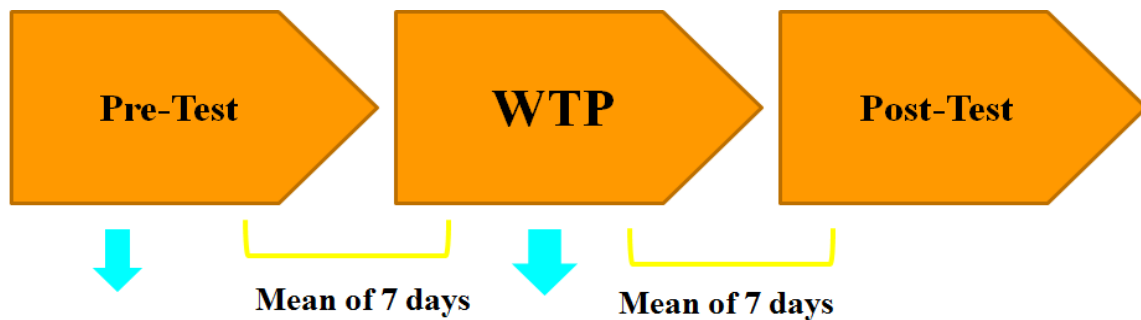
Date: On-request

Texts: All program materials / modules will be assigned for review at appropriate times during the program.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Wheelchair Training Program (WTP) is an ISWP recognized training course. The WTP was developed in 2017 with the purpose for rehabilitation specialists and healthcare professionals to develop knowledge and hands-on skills in the process of identifying and providing wheeled mobility and seating interventions to people of all ages and disability type. The program builds on the World Health Organization (WHO) training packages and other educational and clinical resources. The program will be carried out specifically through a case based and evidence-based practice learning approach. Therapists are required to attend labs and work with clinical faculty. Theoretical classes will be followed by seminars/labs where cases will be discussed. Readings will be assigned on weekly basis and materials will also be referred to for specific modules.

Procedure of the WTP:



Baseline Data:

- ☐ Consent form
- ☐ Demographics
- ☐ Pre-Test

Mean of 4 weeks

NOTE: WTP could be delivered in 4 consecutive sessions with a total of 20 contact hours (theory and practice). These sessions could be delivered in 2-3 days or as per request.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

Upon successful completion of this program, therapists will show a good understanding of their role in promoting functional performance in terms of independence, safety, and quality through the selection and use of appropriate Durable Medical Equipment and properly fitted wheelchairs, and any other wheeled mobility device.

Upon completing the program, therapists are expected to:

- For therapists, to develop knowledge and hands-on skill in the process of identifying and providing wheeled mobility and seating interventions to people of all ages and disability type.
- Develop fundamental knowledge and the minimum skills required by personnel involved in wheelchair service delivery

In addition, the WTP future mission will be focusing at:

- Integrating the WTP into the regular rehabilitation training programs and rehabilitation disciplines (Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Orthotics and Prosthetics, etc.).
- Launching an outreach campaign to raise local awareness about quality wheelchair services, and the availability of the WTP
 - Target of these awareness campaigns will be clinical, research, and academic institutions/settings.
- Inclusion of wheelchair users into the WTP, by:
 - Having a training on the use of their wheelchairs
 - Better understanding and meeting their needs
 - Conducting focus groups and development of satisfaction surveys

WTP TOPICS:

The program provides fundamental training in wheeled mobility and seating assessments and interventions. The content includes the following modules:

Topic / Module
1. Seating biomechanics
2. Postural supports
3. Manual, power wheelchairs
4. Seat functions
5. Wheelchair functional outcomes
6. Clinical Implications
7. Rehab role in wheelchair assessments and prescription
8. Wheelchair service provision guidelines 2023
9. Wheelchair service provision: 4 steps
10. Accessibility issues
11. Wheelchair maintenance and adjustments
12. Wheelchair fitting “customization”
13. Wheelchair skills training
14. Wheelchairs in Emergencies

WTP: Teaching Methods / Strategies:

- Evidence-based practice learning
- Case-study approach
- Clinical scenarios
- Interactive discussions
- Direct instruction, PowerPoint Presentations, and handouts
- ISWP / WHO training and educational resources
- Group work
- Experiential and blended learning

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

Therapists are required to attend theoretical and practical sessions, complete assigned readings prior to each session, participate in discussions, lead session discussions related to readings and cases, complete written assignments, conduct case presentations, and pass the posttest exam (60% passing score).

GRADING:

Grading will be based on the following basis:

The therapists will:

- attend session
- actively participate in client services
- actively participate in discussions

- complete readings
- answer questions related to program materials and cases
- lead discussions
- demonstrate proficiency at an entry level within this field
- provide input to other team members
- able to locate, synthesize, and present information
- pass the WTP posttest (paper-based exam at the end of the program; multiple choice questions; passing score: 60%)
- able to accurately answer questions in an oral manner

PROGRAM OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of the WTP, it may provide:

- A better understanding of wheelchair users needs, wheeled mobility assessment, and seating interventions
- Enabling therapists to better understand the person-wheelchair-environment match
- Improving the clinical practice for future wheeled mobility and seating interventions through the introduction of the WTP
- Correctly applying fundamental assessment and provision of wheeled mobility and seating interventions
- Developing skills as a wheelchair professional and evidence-based practitioner
- Enhancing quality of wheelchair service provision
- Improving independence, safety, and quality of everyday functional performance for wheelchair users who are the real motivation behind all of this
- Positive significant impact on wheelchair users, practitioners and suppliers
- Certificate of completion from ISWP / WHO.

If you are interested and would like to get involved or need more information, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Many thanks.

Sincerely,



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Hassan Izzeddin Sarsak (PhD, OT) is an Associate Professor and the Founding Head of the Occupational Therapy (OT) Program at Batterjee Medical College (BMC), Saudi Arabia. Dr. Sarsak received his PhD degree in Rehabilitation Sciences and Occupational Therapy from the University of Pittsburgh in 2013. Dr. Sarsak has worked in the United States, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan for over 20 years in a variety of clinical, academic, and research institutions. Throughout his career, he has provided services for individuals from different populations with different diagnoses and health-related conditions. Dr. Sarsak is a consultant for Assistive Technology at the World Health Organization (WHO). In 2017, Dr. Sarsak developed the Wheelchair Training Program (WTP) to become the first Arabic training program approved by the International Society of Wheelchair Professionals (ISWP) and the first Arabic-speaking international trainer recognized by the Wheelchair International Network (WIN). In 2019, he developed an Occupational Therapy Program to become the first Occupational Therapy Program approved by the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) in Saudi higher education private sector and is currently the Head of the Program at Batterjee Medical College (BMC). In 2020, Dr. Sarsak developed the Enriching Arabic Content in Occupational Therapy Project and since then has authored over seven books in Arabic language. In 2024, Dr. Sarsak developed the *OT Dictionary* Mobile Application to become the first electronic Occupational Therapy Dictionary worldwide. Dr. Sarsak received several international awards, most notably the WFOT Contribution to the Occupational Therapy Profession Recognition 2024, the Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Elite Reviewer Award 2025, and the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) Outstanding Reviewer Award 2025. In 2025, in recognition of his exceptional fruitful efforts and outstanding scholarly contributions, Dr. Sarsak was granted with the Distinguished Saudi Premium Residency in the Special Talent Residency category.