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**Positioned for Function: The impact of the appropriate wheelchair on occupational performance**

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**Introduction/Rationale:** The World Health Organisation defines the appropriate wheelchair as meeting the user's needs and environmental conditions and providing proper fit and postural support (WHO, 2008). Previous work has failed to capture the precise impact of an appropriate wheelchair and comprehensive support services on the occupational performance of the user.

**Objectives:** The study aims to explore the impact of an appropriate wheelchair on the user's occupational performance i.e. self- maintenance, productivity/school and leisure/play. It also aims to assess how an appropriate wheelchair impacts the wheelchair user's perceived independence and quality of life, and where relevant, the quality of life of the caregiver.

**Method/Approach:** The study will be conducted in the Western Cape Region of South Africa. Through a self-designed questionnaire, semi-structured interviews and observations of the wheelchair user performing relevant occupations in the environment, information will be gathered to ascertain the occupational performance level as well as user satisfaction with their level of independence and quality of life. This will be compared with the wheelchair user's self-reported occupational performance, independence and quality of life prior to issue of the appropriate wheelchair.

**Result:** The results of the study will provide information on the impact of the appropriate wheelchair on occupational performance, which has up until now had little documentation.

**Conclusion:** This study will illustrate the impact that an appropriate wheelchair has in enhancing the occupational performance, independence and quality of life for persons with disabilities through meeting their needs and environment as well as proving proper postural support and fit.