NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHRONIC DISEASE DIRECTORS
Promoting Health. Preventing Disease.

Power Wheelchair Charging Station (PWCS) Best Practices 1-Pager

(A recommendations list from the *Reaching People with Disabilities through Healthy Communities* national pilot project of the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors)

PWCS allows a user to boost-charge a mobility devise battery so as not to be stranded.

Regarding Power Wheelchair Charging Station Installation:

- Solicit input and invite engagement from people within the community who depend on battery-powered mobility devices before installing.
- Determine appropriate locations within the community setting that might most benefit charging station users.
    - Ideal locations include safe, well-lit, covered areas: emergency departments or other health care locations, parks and campgrounds, airports, libraries, places of public transit or transport, and/or other places where notable community events occur or where large numbers of community residents frequent.
- Identify the appropriate person or entity to install the power wheelchair charging stations within the community to ensure consistency of installation techniques.
- Ensure that charging station height and signage height are appropriate for a variety of power wheelchair users, such as youth, adult, or elderly users.

Regarding Power Wheelchair Charging:

- Use of a five-amp charger is the best choice for a “universal” charger. It will charge all three type of batteries without damaging them or overheating the charger.
    - The majority of mobility units (95%) use a 24 volt five-amp battery; some smaller units may use a 24 volt three-amp battery; and some larger units may use a 24 volt eight-amp battery. The battery chargers in the charging units are 24 volt five-amp chargers.
- Deep-cycle batteries should be charged eight to 12 hours each night. Infrequent boost/top-up charges like those received from a power wheelchair charging

station will not damage the life and function of the battery, but this charging style could shorten battery life if it is frequent and without nightly deep charges (eight to 12 hours).

  - Use of a power wheelchair charging station in short bursts as needed to extend a person's time in the community setting will not do permanent damage to the wheelchair battery.

  - Please be aware that boost charges are not full charges and a monitor may misleadingly indicate the battery has a full charge after a boost charge.

Mobility Needs:

- If a power wheelchair user's battery is dying frequently, refer him/her to a seating clinic (Physical Therapist/Occupational Therapist/Assistive Technology Professional) to assess battery life and battery needs in efforts to be outfitted appropriately.

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