

# SCOOTER SAFETY INFORMATION

## READ BEFORE USING YOUR NEW SCOOTER!

Mobility scooters are designed for both indoor and outdoor use and have narrow widths to facilitate traveling through doorways and maneuvering in small spaces. Because of the narrow width the centre of gravity is high and the scooter may tip over sideways or backwards on inclines if not driven with sufficient care. It is important that the following safety information is known.

- 1) Scooters are more likely to tip if driven across the side of a hill or ramp. Users should always drive up or down hills and stay well away from drop offs such as curbs.
- 2) If the user tries to travel across a terrain that's too snowy, or too soft, such as sand, it's likely to get stuck. If the user travels on icy surfaces traction will be lost and braking will be ineffective.
- 3) Users should expect that they aren't seen by cars and trucks; especially in parking lots.
- 4) Scooter users are considered pedestrians and should behave like pedestrians by riding on sidewalks whenever possible.
- 5) Inebriated people lose co-ordination, inhibitions, common sense and balance. Do not drive your scooter if you are affected by alcohol or medications.
- 6) Aggressive driving can lead to accidents. Although small, scooters can seriously hurt other people and pets, or damage anything it might run into.
- 7) Mobility Scooters are powerful machines and proper care and attention must be used when driving a scooter for everyone's safety.
- 8) Never put the scooter into free-wheel on an incline. The brakes will not work and the user will have no control.
- 9) Do not reach for items on the floor. Leaning over may cause the scooter to tip over.
- 10) Ensure the power is off and the scooter is not in free-wheel mode when transferring on or off.
- 11) Never use your scooter in free wheel mode without an attendant.
- 12) Do not exceed the weight capacity of your scooter.

## WHEN USING A MOBILITY SCOOTER YOU NEED TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

### Common sense

- Slow down for curves
- Balance your weight for stability by not leaning to one side
- Do gradual turns not sharp or fast turns
- Do not drive in hazardous conditions
- Drive at speeds reasonable for the terrain and conditions
- Do not drive if physically unable to operate your scooter safely

### Cognitive state

- User needs to be aware of their speed
- User needs to understand forward and backward driving
- User has to understand the environment in which the scooter is being used
- User has to obey and understand the traffic rules
- Scooters are to be used on sidewalks, if there are no sidewalks, users must behave as pedestrians.
- Be aware of potential hazards, on the road (pedestrians, automobiles, weather elements, terrain, etc.)

### Motor skills

- User has to have good up trunk support and posture control
- User has to have good dexterity in fingers and hands to operate controls
- User has to have good balance
- User has to have the ability to get on / off scooter unaided
- User has to have good eye sight

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34 Futurity Gate, Unit # 15 Concord Ontario L4K 1S6

wk: 416-739-1267 | Toll Free: 1-888-634-5808 | fx 416-739-7171

email: [info@hpurehab.com](mailto:info@hpurehab.com) | [www.hpurehab.com](http://www.hpurehab.com)