

# Permobil Academy



## Enhancing function: The power of power assist devices

### Continuing Education Completion Requirements for 0.10 CEU (1- hour)

Attendees must: Attend the entire course • Sign In/Out • Complete the assessment within 2 weeks [Assessment\(permobil.com\)](https://www.permobil.com/assessment)

### Benefits of choosing power assist:

- Bridge between MWC and PWC
- Prolong usage of MWC for active wheelchair riders
- Improve functional mobility and independence

### Types of power assist for consideration:

**Front PAD (no code in US):** front chair clamping system lifts front wheels off ground, braking system, outdoor use



**Main wheel PAD (E0986):** sensors in handrims, activated through push initiation; programmable



**Rear PAD (0986):** variety of control methods, removable, lightweight; assistance only when needed; beneficial for a variety of propulsion methods; prescribed configuration of the MWC is not impacted



### Key Take Aways:

- ✓ Criteria for power assist is **not** diagnosis specific, but based on functional improvement
- ✓ Clients with neurologic, orthopedic, and a wide range of other systemic impairments, who struggle with all day/every day MWC propulsion can be considered for a PAD
- ✓ Keep client environment, lifestyle, routines and preferences in mind when determining PAD.
- ✓ Know the differences between front, mid-wheel, and rear PAD options.
- ✓ Document why lesser devices/configurations are inadequate to meet client’s needs, including group 2 power wheelchairs.
- ✓ Describe functional status and participation impact if PAD is NOT provided.
- ✓ Training clients in use of the PAD is a key component to achieve a successful outcome.

### Clinical Questions to Consider: a “yes” indicates PAD may be indicated

	No	Yes
1. Will the client be a long-term manual wheelchair user?		
2. Does the client have a history of upper limb pain or dysfunction?		
3. Does the client experience fatigue that limits participation in daily life?		
4. Does the client experience changes in oxygen saturation with increased physical activity?		
5. Does the client require more than manual mobility for independence in all environments, but does not wish to pursue a power wheelchair?		
6. Does inefficiency in manual wheelchair propulsion inhibit participation in mobility related activities of daily living? Consider varying propulsion techniques including hemi-propulsion.		
7. Is the client dependent for mobility, and the caregiver is having a difficult time pushing the wheelchair in necessary environments/terrains?		
8. Is the client at risk for development of postural asymmetry over time, and does posture during propulsion increase this risk?		

### Suggested Next Steps:

- Hands-on workshop practicing power assist use and programming
- In-depth discussion on Power Assist White Paper
- Training activities lab for power assist devices
- Documentation and funding for PAD lab

### Resources:

- Permobil PAD White Paper: [Permobil Power Assist White Paper](#)
- Permobil Manual Wheelchair Clinical Guide: [Permobil Manual Wheelchair Guide](#)
- Permobil SmartDrive [Resources](#)
- Permobil [Smart Drive](#) Page

[Permobil Clinical Resources](#) and [Clinical Research](#)