

THE MEDLINE DIFFERENCE

QUALITY ASSURANCE



Quality tig welding – provides greater frame strength, like a mountain bike.



Layers of durable, reinforced upholstery reduces sagging over time.



Double coating of chrome plating and powder coating gives maximum protection against rusting.



Non-marking tires help keep facility floors free of unsightly black marks.



Brass inserts – prevent stripping of upholstery screws.

MEDLINE GUARANTEE Lifetime warranty on frame. One year on all parts.

PREVENTING WHEELCHAIR THEFT

Wheelchair theft has been a problem for many institutions for years, but with the increased unemployment and higher costs of living, preventing theft has become imperative.

Wheelchairs are stolen for a variety of reasons. The person checking out of the hospital who is recently disabled but unable to afford the equipment he or she needs to function from day to day is often the culprit. Occasionally a patient may have recently broken his or her equipment and is unable to replace the chair. There have even been cases of a patient arriving in a broken and abused chair and swapping it out for a newer chair. Sometimes the chairs are found miles away at a subway station, shopping center, in parking garages, or even on the street near parking spaces.

Unfortunately, many hospital directors have to budget for the loss of equipment each year and it has become an expected loss. Missing chairs account for a large amount of lost dollars to an institution because the chairs are not available when and where they are needed. Often, the institution orders replacement chairs that may not have been needed. Here are some ways to guard against wheelchair loss and theft.

- 1. Choose a model that fewer people want to steal.** The type of chair that is purchased may have a huge effect on how many of the wheelchairs are stolen. If a wheelchair can be user-propelled then it greatly increases the usefulness of the wheelchair to the patient. By using a transport chair that is less desirable to the patient, an institution can greatly reduce the number of stolen chairs.
- 2. Label the chairs to identify your institution and the department to which the chairs belong.** Adding custom logos, embroidery, stenciling, or ordering chairs in different colors may help. These differences can make it easier for security or parking lot attendants to spot a chair when it is moved outside of its normal usage area.

- 3. Attach anti-fold devices below the seat or overhead to discourage theft.**

Preventing the patient from being able to put a wheelchair in his or her vehicle has also proven to be an effective deterrent for theft. Anti-theft and anti-fold bars are common solutions to this problem. Preventing a wheelchair from being folded causes it to be exceedingly difficult when attempting to stow the wheelchair into a vehicle. Overhead anti-theft devices can help to make the chair too tall or long to be stored in a vehicle. Adding a flag or a fixed height IV pole can also decrease the convenience of folding and storing the wheelchair.

- 4. Setting up designated storage areas, numbering chairs, labeling chairs to specific wings or departments, or even the use of tracking devices**

can bring the incident rate of lost chairs down. Some locations go so far as to offer a day of amnesty for a patient to return, without repercussions, the wheelchairs that he or she may have "accidentally" acquired.

- 5. Lock the leg rests on the chair.**

Missing parts is also a large problem in many locations, but this is easily preventable. By installing Tinnerman nuts on the chair, the leg rests become permanently attached to the chair. These caps come with a wrench that is used to tighten a set screw into the pins that keep the leg rests on the wheelchairs. They install in less than two minutes, but can save hours of wasted time searching for leg riggings that fit your chair.



A Transport or Companion Chair may greatly decrease theft



Numbering or labeling chairs to specific wings or departments can decrease theft and help to keep chairs in their designated area.

Overhead Anti-Theft Device

MDS85197A



Below-Seat Anti-Fold/ Anti-Theft Device

MDS85196

For 24-30" (61-76 cm)

Models

MDS851965SH



Prevent Theft of Leg Rigging

Tinnerman Legrest Locks

WCA806991 (Pair)

