



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ADAPTATION MAGAZINE



HOW THE MILFORD PERSON LIFT TRANSFORMED FAMILY ROAD TRIPS FOR THE ROZANSKI'S

MOBILITY IN MOTION

**A PERSONAL
REFLECTION ON
BECOMING AN OT
EXPERT WITNESS**

SOMEK AND ASSOCIATES

**KIT COMBO GIVES
ALEX FREEDOM
TO EXPLORE HIS
WORLD**

AATGB

**FREE CPD
'LEGS INTO BED'
LUNCH AND LEARN
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EDITOR & MARKETING
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A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

DEAR READERS,

Welcome to OTAM issue #4! I am Marty Brookes – your new Editor in Chief for this amazing magazine. After 3 years away, it is great to be back into this industry and looking forward to catching up with old friends and contacts.

The issue is once again packed full of content designed to elevate the world of occupational therapy and adaptations. There's a fascinating article from Somek – Becoming an OT expert witness, plus a really interesting piece on making small spaces work for your clients.

Theraposture tell us about their “Lunch and Learn” CPD workshops and a case study from AAT and how they helped open up their clients world with their stair climbing wheelchair.

Our industry is amazing right?

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to another great issue – I hope you find it useful, and you can use the content to help make people's lives better.

See you next time!



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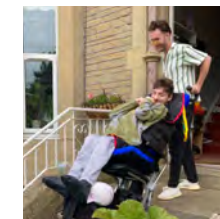
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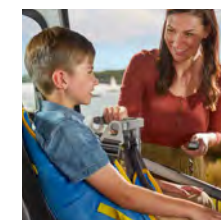
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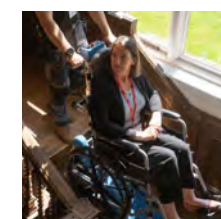
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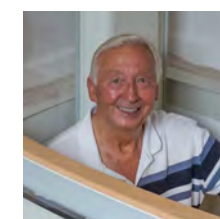
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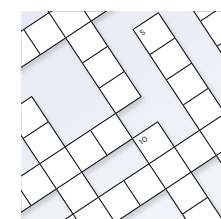
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A PERSONAL REFECTION ON BECOMING AN OT EXPERT WITNESS

WHY I CHOSE SOMEK & ASSOCIATES...

"I really appreciated all the support I received when I started by expert witness journey with Somek & Associates. It was a steep learning curve but worth it to move into a role where occupational therapy is valued."



BY BARBARA FRANKS

Somek OT Expert Witness and Associate Trainer

I had never heard of the term expert witness until 2015, it was only when I began exploring the world of private occupational therapy that I became aware of expert witness work and Somek, who are one of the largest and most respected expert witness providers in the UK.

Excellent information was provided about what the role entailed at the interview day presentation.

I began expert witness work in 2015; whilst this was a steep learning curve it opened up an entirely new world – one where OTs were recognised, valued and wanted because of our skills! I am now a trainer, supporting new experts on their journey.

For me this role is constantly evolving, as new legal updates and judgements mean that there is always something to learn.

As an expert witness you need to have excellent assessment skills, an ability to forensically examine evidence, write in-depth reports, which outline your opinions and recommendations and is backed up by the evidence provided. Our assessments identify what functional impact an accident/clinical negligence has on an individual. Recommendations are based on what they need to put them back in the situation they would have been in had the accident or clinical negligence not occurred. This opens up a whole new world and allows you to be creative; you're not bound by cost, but by what is reasonable. Somek provide comprehensive training to prepare experts for this work.



There is a team of experienced trainers who ensure reports meet the standards expected. Invaluable support is also provided by admin, case handlers, reports and finance teams. Somek also deal with case enquiries to secure instructions. All of this is a huge benefit, as completing the assessment and report is a big enough task in itself!

Ongoing virtual training runs throughout the year for each step of the legal process, as well as an annual conference. This provides an opportunity to meet with other experts, trainers and members of the wider team, and provides important updates on developments in the medico-legal world. External companies also provide webinars on a variety of topics. There is a monthly briefing which provides information on important medico-legal updates, training and top tips to help experts with their report writing.

Somek is very much a company run by experts for experts. This makes such a difference as there is a true understanding of what the role of an expert witness entails.

"If you always do what you always did, you'll always get what you always got".

Now could be the time to spread your wings and consider a new professional challenge!

OTs need to be working clinically and have a minimum of 7-8 years post qualification experience. You need to be available for at least 8 hours per week, as the reports are in-depth and time is required to attend case conferences and expert meetings.

If you are interested in learning more about expert witness work, Somek would love you to join us on Friday 31st October, 12pm-1.30pm. We are hosting a free webinar 'Introduction to the role and function of the occupational therapy expert witness'.

This webinar, run by myself and another of our experienced trainers, will discuss the key role OTs have in clinical negligence and personal litigation cases.

To register your interest in joining our free webinar on 31st October, please email:

applications@somek.com



CASE STUDY

The Claimant injured his right leg (fractured calcaneus) in a workplace accident. This did not improve as expected and he developed Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS).

This impacted all areas of his life and he developed low mood due to pain, restriction in activities of daily living (ADLs), leisure and inability to work.

Prior to the accident, the Claimant was fit and healthy, other than hearing loss, and enjoyed running, going on his motorbike and went on active holidays.

I undertook three assessments for this case (which is quite unusual), as his social and health situation altered significantly over the course of the case. From my first assessment, he was restricted in his participation in ADLs and could not touch or wash his leg due to hypersensitivity. He could not sleep upstairs in the same room as his wife. He was very distressed during the assessment and he didn't let me look at or touch his leg.

He needed assistance for tasks such as meal preparation, dog walking, household chores and accessing the community, as he could not drive. Costs for care his family provided were estimated. He was unable to return to work.

At my initial assessment, future support was recommended for household chores, meal preparation (along with equipment) and dog walking.

Occupational therapy, physiotherapy, psychology and vocational rehabilitation were identified as being required to support him to manage his CRPS.

Equipment was recommended, on the basis that his condition was not going to improve in a meaningful way. This was to enable him to be more independent with mobility and ADLs, which could have a positive impact on his psychological well-being.

As the case progressed, the Claimant's social situation altered and his relationship broke down, resulting in him moving house, and by the time of my final assessment, he had undergone a right below knee amputation.

These changes affected my recommendations for care, equipment and accommodation. The medical evidence also altered with regard to his needs in later life.

This case demonstrates that opinion and recommendations can change and a Claimant's situation may change, which impacts on recommendations. The medical evidence is also key, along with your assessment, when forming opinions.

The crucial thing is providing clinical reasoning for your recommendations, so it is clear to you and the reader why you're recommending something.

OTs are ideally suited to this role as we are able to undertake truly holistic assessments and this role allows you to fully utilise this skill. You can be creative in your approach as you're not bound by cost but by what is reasonable.

TOUCH IN THE PERFORMANCE OF ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING



Hand and foot tactile sensations allow us to understand and interact with the world and enable us to perceive surface qualities which are not easily discerned through vision alone. Touch information from contact with surfaces around us is vital for action, providing feedback for fine, dexterous manipulation and enabling whole-body activities like standing and walking, both of which are part of moving and handling.

In the **Active Touch Lab** at the University of Birmingham School of Psychology we take a behavioural neuroscience approach (including psychophysical measurement, functional brain imaging and computational modelling) to the sense of touch. For example, we are looking at the effects of static versus sliding contact in the detection of small irregularities and discrimination of surface roughness with small, controlled changes to the surface. We also simulate how information provided to the brain by different classes of tactile mechanoreceptor changes with aging and evaluate to what extent touch processing involves not only somatosensory but also visual and auditory brain regions in a multisensory cortical network.

Our work includes a focus on understanding the impact of impaired touch on perception and action. For example, we recently published a study¹ of the effects of chemotherapy induced peripheral neuropathy (CIPN) on touch in everyday manual activities such as buttoning clothes and handwriting.

Next year, in collaboration with **Promoting Independence**, we will be holding a 1-day workshop on **Touch in the performance of activities of daily living**. The course will inform clinical practice by sharing new research findings on the sense of touch, delivered through practical demonstrations and lectures, and will develop collaboration between occupational therapists and researchers, by informal poster and discussion groups. Our overall objective, is to support occupational therapists in effectively evaluating their patients, by including how touch impairments affect actions, such as moving and handling everyday objects, as part of improving the quality of life for both patients and their families. If you would like to know more about our research and the forthcoming workshop please contact us via the [Active Touch Lab](https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/centres-institutes/active-touch) website².

Alan Wing (*Professor*)
Roberta Roberts (*Research Fellow*)
Zhuojun Yin (*PhD researcher*)

¹www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2025.03.05.25323401v1.full.pdf

²www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/centres-institutes/active-touch

KIT COMBO GIVES ALEX FREEDOM TO EXPLORE HIS WORLD...

For the past decade, Alex Yates' scoliosis and complex needs has made it difficult for him to go beyond his adapted living space.

Now, "the world has opened up" for the 28 year-old and his family: not only can he, for the first time, explore more of his home, but can easily go out and about.

It's all due to AAT's C-Max stairclimber (stairclimbing wheelchair) and Comfortable Plus Duo adjustable vacuum posture cushion, and best use of resources by Kirklees Council.

The family's Victorian home in Yorkshire is set over four floors, with steps outside and a shared driveway.

Within the house, the multiple floor levels and staircases means Alex had never seen any of the rooms in the house other than the ground floor. To go out, because of the drive's incline and shared access, the family was having to lay a series of pallets down to create a ramp from the house to the car, transfer Alex via his wheelchair to the car, then lift the makeshift ramp so access was unimpeded for the neighbours.



The family Occupational Therapist Jessica Johnson @ Kirklees Council was despairing of finding an appropriate solution and turned to the Council's moving & handling specialist Mark Hughes. He suggested the C-Max, as a viable option which happened to be in Equipment Stores, having been purchased for another client but never used due to their end of life.

When joining Jessica and Mark at Alex's home to assess the suitability of the kit for him, AAT recommended that, with his complex seating needs, adding a Stabilo Comfortable Plus Duo would ensure he would always be correctly positioned and supported when using the C-Max.

"It's literally been life-changing, the whole world has opened up for Alex,"

says his main care giver Jess Gage.

"We used to carry him up and down stairs, but that was no longer safe. We've been in this house 10 years, and he's never even seen his sisters' rooms! With the C-Max, it's so easy to move him not just around the house but to go out. The Stabilo is amazing too and holds him comfortably in position. He just giggles with the joy of getting around and out."

Added Mark Hughes, Kirklees Council Moving & Handling Ergonomics Advisor,

"The C-Max and Stabilo cushion meant that the increased level of postural support enabled Alex to safely access and egress the property, reducing the risk associated with previous methods of transfer. Alex can now look to the future in the property he wanted to remain in."

AAT's C-Max stairclimber with integral seat safely moves people with limited mobility up to 140kg (22st) safely up and down stairs and steps- and onward. Completely portable and requiring no installation/fixing the building fabric, it utilises battery-powered patented kinematic technology to smoothly transfer the person at a consistent speed set and controlled by the operator. Each charge of the battery will deliver up to 300 steps.

The C-Max handle height can be easily adjusted to suit the operator. A high balance point and a range of safety straps means the passenger always feel safe and secure whilst being moved up and down. AAT's patented ComfortStep technology means the unit automatically pauses between each step to allow smooth and safe continuity of use.

The operator can set the speed of the C-Max to a pace in their comfort zone and can even pause/stop it en route.

AAT's Comfortable Plus Duo vacuum posture cushion ensures Alex is always correctly sat and comfortable. It stabilises Alex's head, torso, hips and pelvis. The unique vacuum technology means Jess and the care team can quickly and easily adjust the Comfortable Plus Duo to suit if and when Alex requires. His comfort and safety is assured without any delay waiting for a new shape to be ordered and delivered as with conventional fixed mould seats, nor with any risk of pressure sores. Whilst prescribed for use with the C-Max, the cushion can be transferred to any other seat Alex is using- even into the bath.

AAT provides free, no obligation assessment of client, occupation and environment for all its equipment, sets it up for each user and trains the carers in how to use it. Full details are accessed via www.aatgb.com.



FURTHER INFORMATION:

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CASE STUDY

TIGHT ON SPACE

Occupational therapists (OTs) frequently face the challenge of meeting user needs while safeguarding carer safety, especially in home environments where space is limited. Recently, Healthcare Matters supported an OT with a particularly complex case.

The client had been using a standard toilet in a very small bathroom. Carers assisting them were often forced to bend and twist awkwardly, which created significant manual handling risks. The OT's goal was clear: reduce carer strain, enable safer working postures, and wherever possible, move towards single-handed care. Healthcare Matters was asked to find a solution that would support the client's independence while fitting the restrictive layout.

THE INSTALLATION CHALLENGE

The bathroom's size was the main obstacle. Many standard toilet lifters were either too large to fit or incompatible with the equipment the OT wanted to include. A Geberit AquaClean was specified for hygiene and comfort, but this further narrowed the options available. Without the right combination, both user independence and carer safety would remain compromised.



THE SOLUTION

After detailed discussions and collaboration with Ropox, Healthcare Matters worked closely with Nicola Zimnoch, UK Area Sales Manager (North), to explore possible options. Together with the OT, the team identified the Ropox Toilet Lifter as the most suitable product. Its compact footprint and smooth height adjustability allowed installation within the confined space without compromising access. Carers could now support the client at an ergonomic working height, while the client gained safer and more independent transfers.

To maximise the benefits, Healthcare Matters paired the toilet lifter with the Geberit AquaClean. Its integrated cleaning function reduced the number of transfers required for personal hygiene, minimising manual handling interventions and saving carers valuable time. Comfort features also allowed the client to remain seated longer without discomfort, improving dignity and reducing care demands.

THE OUTCOME

The installation delivered a safe, space-efficient adaptation that met all priorities:

- Carers can now work in upright, safe positions without twisting.
- The client has greater independence, moving towards single-handed care.
- Transfers for cleaning are significantly reduced.
- The products fit the small bathroom without compromising functionality.

Feedback to Healthcare Matters from both the OT and carers has been overwhelmingly positive. Comments included praise for the “clever use of space” and acknowledgment that they initially did not believe such equipment could fit.

CONCLUSION

This case highlights the value of creative, collaborative problem-solving in adaptations. By working closely with the OT, Nicola Zimnoch, and the Ropox team, Healthcare Matters delivered a tailored solution that improved safety, independence, and dignity for the client. The project demonstrates that even in the most challenging home environments, effective teamwork and the right equipment can transform outcomes for both users and carers.

FREE CPD 'LEGS INTO BED' LUNCH AND LEARN WORKSHOPS FROM THERAPOSTURE

Presented by Theraposture Equipment Specialists, these educational sessions can be booked anywhere in the UK for occupational therapists to explore the latest, proven products for safer client transfers in and out of bed.

Each free workshop highlights why the Orbit 235 Rotating Bed (OT Show Award Winner) and Theracare Leg Lifter can be appropriate for improved occupational performance in a variety of client scenarios. Professional attendees will be able to discuss how to enable clients, maximise independence and reduce carer intervention and cost.



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. See and try proven solutions to the problem of getting in, out and away from a bed safely
2. Understand potential care cost savings and reduced carer intervention
3. Understand why certain products are relevant to specific conditions
4. Take part in practical demonstrations of an Orbit 235 and Theracare Leg Lifter
5. See how the Orbit 235 can be configured for different body shapes and weights making it easy to reissue
6. Understand the latest legislation for bed safety
7. Q&A session with equipment experts
8. Gather case studies for evidence of successful outcomes.

CPD

All attendees will receive a free CPD certificate and reflective log for their educational portfolio. Time spent at this event will count towards CPD hours and help enhance everyday practice. There is always a free lunch provided along with free literature, case studies and product guides to help enhance client outcomes.

To book a **FREE** Lunch and Learn for you and your colleagues:

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Email: info@theraposture.co.uk

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Spaces
ENABLED



DELIVERING INDEPENDENCE

We are a small team of dedicated professionals with one aim; to improve the lives of those we are fortunate enough to work alongside. We do not work with clients, we work with real people to understand their vision and requirements resulting in the delivery of a very personal experience.

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HOW THE MILFORD PERSON LIFT TRANSFORMED FAMILY ROAD TRIPS FOR THE ROZANSKI'S



BEYOND THE EVERYDAY SOLUTION

For many families supporting a child with mobility challenges, the right vehicle adaptation can make the difference between everyday practicality and genuine freedom. This was the case for Mr. Rozanski and his teenage son, Alex, who lives with cerebral palsy.

Mr Rozanski relies on a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV) for day-to-day trips. It offers a practical solution when nipping to the shops, attending appointments, or running errands. But for longer journeys, the WAV proved less than ideal.

Extended hours spent in a wheelchair at the back of the vehicle left Alex uncomfortable and isolated from his family during the journey. For Mr. Rozanski, it was clear they needed something different, a solution that would bring comfort and a sense of enjoyment back to travel.

DISCOVERING THE MILFORD PERSON LIFT

At an exhibition in Birmingham, Mr. Rozanski came across the Milford Person Lift, supplied by Mobility in Motion. Compact, versatile, and designed to transfer a person safely from their wheelchair into a standard car seat, the lift offered exactly what the family had been searching for.

Impressed by its simple operation and after checking compatibility with their second car, Mr. Rozanski decided to have one fitted. That decision, he says, has transformed their longer journeys.

"The Milford Person Lift is much more comfortable than sitting in the wheelchair at the back of the WAV. We've been visiting Alex's grandparents in Poland over the summer holidays, which is the main reason for getting it."

COMFORT MEETS CONNECTION

Being able to sit in the front passenger seat has given Alex a more sociable, interactive travel experience.

"Alex loves being able to sit in the front of the car as he's closer to us and can play with the different radio stations. It's much more sociable, fun and enjoyable. We're already looking forward to our next summer holidays when we're planning lots more trips and days out."

These seemingly small details, chatting together up front, sharing music, and making journeys fun, have had a huge impact on Alex's wellbeing.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Mobility solutions aren't just about function. They're about independence, and the quality of everyday experiences. The Milford Person Lift offers:

- **Improved comfort & safety** on longer journeys, by taking full advantage of standard safety systems like locking seatbelts, airbags and supportive seats.
- **Greater social inclusion**, enabling clients to sit alongside family rather than apart.
- **Flexibility and choice**, by making standard vehicles accessible.



ENABLING MORE THAN MOBILITY

The Rozanski's' story highlights the importance of choosing the right vehicle adaptations for new possibilities such as, holidays abroad, more comfortable journeys, and creating memories. For Alex, the Milford Person Lift has done more than support his mobility; it has enhanced his life.

To learn more about how the Milford Person Lift could benefit your clients, [contact the team at Mobility in Motion today.](#)

ISKOMED UK LIMITED ENJOYS IT FIRST ANNIVERSARY IN THE UK



It's been a great first year of trading meeting with new partners, customers and suppliers over the last 12 months.

Although we are officially celebrating our first anniversary we are already building a wide customer base and supporting customers and clients thereof, who have previously bought our products through our historical exclusive distributors, namely Quest 88 for our range of standing frames, Nexus DMS Limited and Apex Medical/Wellell UK Limited for our range of specialist beds including the previously named Rotapro rotational chair bed, Pro Bario bariatric bed, Legacy Complex care bed, Pro Comm Duo (shared two person profiling bed) amongst others.

We've not been sitting on our laurels, as you would expect for any new business, but instead we've been out there promoting, demonstrating and attending over 16 exhibitions and events in and around the UK since September 2024 as well as attending Rehacare, Dusseldorf in September 2025 with our parent business on their booth.

We've been very proud to attend every single OTAC* event in the UK since we incorporated and have committed to maintain that unbroken record throughout 2026 too. We feel these events are imperative to support our regional marketing activity and allowing local access to professionals attending the events to witness and experience our products first hand.

WHAT DO WE OFFER THAT MAKES US DIFFERENT FROM OTHERS?

What makes us different can be difficult to quantify as we are already witnessing many of our competitors adjust their marketing activity in response to our pro-active marketing approach. If I were to suggest the most important elements apart from the “*taken for granted*” and “*expected*” quality of German engineered and built product, it would have to be our commitment to an honest and caring approach to our customer base. These are not mere words to us at ISKOMed UK Limited but are our basis for doing business and building our reputation upon.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO OUR CUSTOMERS?

Put very simply, “*service and quality*” – the ability to connect with us and know that you haven't just found a new supplier or service provider but that you have partnered with a business that has been founded over many years with its products proven in all areas whether in community, social or acute sectors with thousands of users and clinical teams including Surgeons, ICU/ HDU, Rehabilitation, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Nursing and Care teams all over the UK and Europe.



HOW WOULD ISKOMED PRODUCTS MAKE LIFE EASIER?

Put simply, ISKOMed have been manufacturing and producing our own range of products in Germany since 1995, for 30 years. We haven't bought others' products and simply rebadged them with our name, unlike many UK suppliers in this sector, but we have invested in our own teams and designers to produce products that are built to offer support and assistance to those in most need, whether in their home or in a care setting. With this approach we have built our knowledge in manufacturing and equally in listening to the end users needs. All of these rich ingredients have been moulded together to ensure that we produce relevant, quality products that meet the end users needs and offer outstanding service over many years, after all other cheap solutions often end up costing more in the long run when failures, breakages and poor build quality are taken into account offering poor returns against the initial investment in the equipment, something that ISKOMed fervently distances itself from.

NEW WEBSITE

Accessing the products can sometimes feel difficult especially when its late at night or at weekends. Our new ecommerce store due to launch in the final quarter of 2025 will now enable clients to view and even purchase products online 24/7. We feel this will give our existing and new customers easier access and greater transparency.

WHATS NEW FOR 2025/2026

We are very excited to be launching several new products and initiatives throughout the remainder of 2025/2026 from the ISKOMed product portfolio, into the UK.

Our two new rotational chair beds The “Rotadorm Edition” and the “Rotadorm Mobil” will soon be available to order widening our rotational chair bed model range in the UK with new styles and design features as well as finalising and launching our AT (Assistive Technology) programme with Possum which will be rolled out across many of our products in the coming months into 2026.

This will enable our products to be even more accessible for those users suffering more limiting and progressive conditions such as Motor Neuron Disease (MND), Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Cerebral Palsy, Parkinsons and many others.

But we haven't stopped there, we are also introducing for our whole Quest 88 range of standing frames, new vibrant and modern colours, to reflect the personality and individuality of each of our clients, all of the new colours are being offered free of charge without any uplift in cost*

FREE DEMONSTRATIONS THROUGHOUT THE UK

Yes, it's true, we are also offering free demonstrations around the UK for the whole Rotadorm Rotational Chair bed range, Standing Frame range and Standing bed range, without any catches, just open minded, supportive and accessible products brought to you to assess and demonstrate with your colleagues and clients. ISKOMed views this as informed decisions, taking away uncertainty and fear of making a wrong decision prior to placing an order for what is considered as such a pivotal purchase.

SOME OF OUR PRODUCTS AT A GLANCE

ROTADORM CARE

Previously known as the Rotapro when sold through our previous partner, the German named Rotadorm Care is a reprogrammable rotational/rotating stand up bed designed to enable users with some level of weight bearing to be able to enter and exit their bed in a chair position, and, via the user hand control, rotate themselves into a lying position at the touch of a button. Simple and effective moving and handling without risk to the user or the carer, whether they be family or professionals. Its unique programmability enables the bed to accommodate users preferred settings



ensuring maximum comfort and convenience in its use. Boasting another unique feature, the split backrest system, part of its six-part mattress platform, means that those users with more demanding needs to support their lumbar and thoracic areas can subtly adjust the beds positions through the hand control to support their very specific needs. Further adjustments enable users to raise the mattress platform to assist with egress from the bed by opening the angle at the back of the knee reducing load bearing on the thigh, knee, calves, hip and pelvis, shoulders and arms.



Mutidorm Flex



MUTIDORM FLEX

The outstanding “Up standing” bed option to offer optimum moving and handling support to the individual who finds themselves in a permanent or semi-permanent lying state. As much as standing is a critical part of normalising the body’s core functions the Multidorm also permits the user to meet, face to face, eye to eye with friends, family and carers with its 85-degree standing position achieved simply through the hand control. This seemingly simple function not only supports the body functions such as respiratory function, bowel and urinary tract function, cardiology and musculoskeletal benefits such as muscle mass and bone density and prevention of contractures but its also has a huge impact on the psychological and emotional well-being of the user and family.



Levaflex Standing Frame



LEVAFLEX STANDING FRAME

After the sad demise during covid of Quest 88 in the UK, their previously known product range of standing frames the Delta, Classic and Altitude frames are all back but under the original German manufacturers names. Quest were the sole UK distributor but now we are able to bring the full range back into the UK market via our subsidiary as well as offering servicing and spare parts are all now available through ISKOMed UK Limited and our new Trusted Partner Network. The Levaflex brings the user to a standing position through its active hoisting harness and simultaneously active lowering and raising mast bringing the client from their chair or wheelchair to an upright standing position.

Please feel free to connect with us on [LinkedIn](#) or email us enquiries@iskomed.com for any further information, explanations or even demonstrations and thank you for taking your time to read what is a quick insight into who **ISKOMed UK Limited** are and our values.

ISKomed

www.iskomed.com

MOVING AND HANDLING, WHY **GOOD PRACTICE** MATTERS

**LIAM BOND**

Head of Business
Development for GBR
Digital Health Solutions



Moving and handling remains one of the most important aspects of providing safe, high-quality care. Done well, it protects both the person receiving care and the staff member carrying it out. Done poorly, the risks are significant: injuries, loss of dignity and a breakdown in trust

Early in my career I saw clear examples of both safe and unsafe practice. These experiences highlighted just how easily things can go wrong when correct procedures are not followed and how essential it is to use the right equipment and techniques every time. They also reinforced the importance of speaking up when poor practice is observed, something that can feel challenging in the moment but ultimately safeguards everyone involved

Two particular scenarios come to mind from my time at a previous company prior to GBR. One where a responder manually lifted the lady from underneath her arms, causing her to dislocate her shoulder. This resulted in the responder being dismissed from her role and the customer having

multiple issues afterwards and a newly developed lack of trust in the service. Another incident of unsafe practice was one of my first responses shadowing a trained responder, they manually lifted a man that had fallen beside his bed. This resulted in a skin tear across his arm.

This was reported to management and the responder was dealt with internally. These incidents make you realise that moving and handling is not just about getting from point A to B, it is about keeping all parties safe and protected at all times

Over time, I have supported many individuals who required assistance with moving and handling. My approach has always been to model safe techniques consistently, demonstrating that good practice is not simply about compliance, but about creating a culture of care and respect. When colleagues see correct approaches in action, it builds confidence and creates safe habits across teams.

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www.movingandhandlingshow.co.uk

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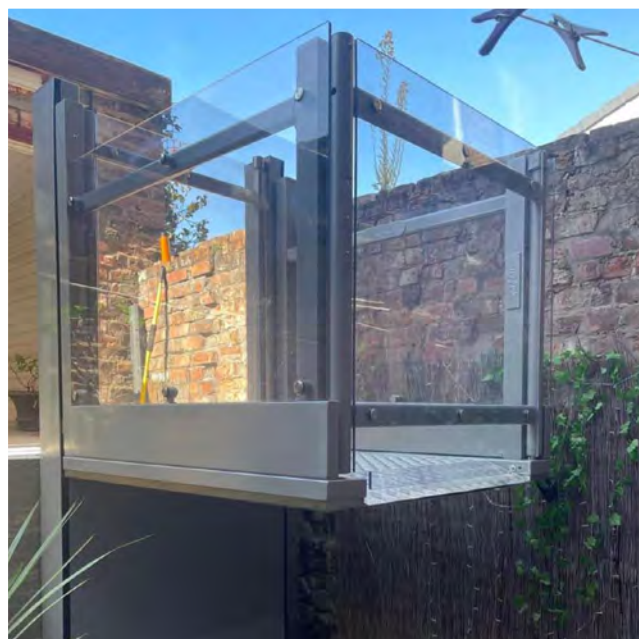
@Moving & Handling Show

For more information please email Sarah at:
sarahm@promoting-independence.co.uk

WE LIFT LIVES: REAR-ACCESS STEP LIFT INSTALLATION

At Pollock Lifts, we regularly install 2-metre step lifts, but each project presents its own unique set of challenges, and this one was no exception.

In this case, front access wasn't feasible, so our team adapted the installation to the rear of the property. As this was a replacement lift, the surrounding building work showed signs of age, but the new model was installed cleanly and efficiently to restore safe and reliable access.



- Rear-access adaptation
- Replacement within an existing structure
- Professionally installed by our experienced team.

We take pride in delivering thoughtful, customised solutions that respect both the property and the people who live in it ensuring long-term performance, accessibility, and satisfaction.

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#AccessibilityMatters
#LiftInstallation
#MobilitySolutions
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#Inclusion

HOW A STAIR CLIMBER CAN SUPPORT FAMILIES AT HOME

Creating a safe, accessible home environment is a top priority for families supporting loved ones with mobility challenges. Yet, one of the most common barriers to independence and inclusion at home is the staircase. Whether it's supporting a parent with limited mobility or a child with a long-term condition, staircases often become a daily source of stress, risk, and frustration.

This is where stair climbers offer a transformative solution. Designed to safely transport individuals up and down stairs—without costly home adaptations—stair climbers provide families with the flexibility to move freely and confidently within their own homes. Whether used by a carer or independently, these devices restore dignity, improve quality of life, and reduce the physical strain on family members.

"Families tell us they've got their lives back – they're not planning every move around the stairs anymore, and that relief process is priceless..."

 **THE
STAIR
CLIMBING
COMPANY**

CLICK TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE [HERE](#) →

The Stair Climbing Company has worked closely with occupational therapists and families across the UK, providing innovative solutions that make real, lasting impacts on home accessibility. Their range of powered stair climbers and seating systems are tailored for both temporary and long-term use—ideal for post-surgery recovery, progressive conditions, or supporting older adults to remain in their homes longer.

Interested? The Stair Climbing Company offer FREE CPD sessions with Goody bags and lunch to all OTs who book in 2025.



WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Join us at **The Moving and Handling Show** on 2nd October 2025, where Chris from The Stair Climbing Company will present *"Creating Accessible Homes: Overseeing Barriers to Access"* — empowering OTs to help clients move with dignity and ease.

Let's work together to make home a place of comfort, not limitation.

THE IMPORTANCE OF INDEPENDENT TRANSFERS

Being able to transfer in and out of your wheelchair without assistance is essential for living independently. A lap belt that cannot be operated independently is an often overlooked barrier to independence at home and out and about. A wheelchair user may be physically capable of transferring themselves, but if their hand function is not sufficient for a standard-issue lap belt, they are forced to choose between not wearing it, or requiring assistance for each transfer.

It is easy to focus on all the other things about a wheelchair which need to be just right for the user. But if a lap belt is required but cannot be operated by the user, the wheelchair seating solution is not fit for purpose.

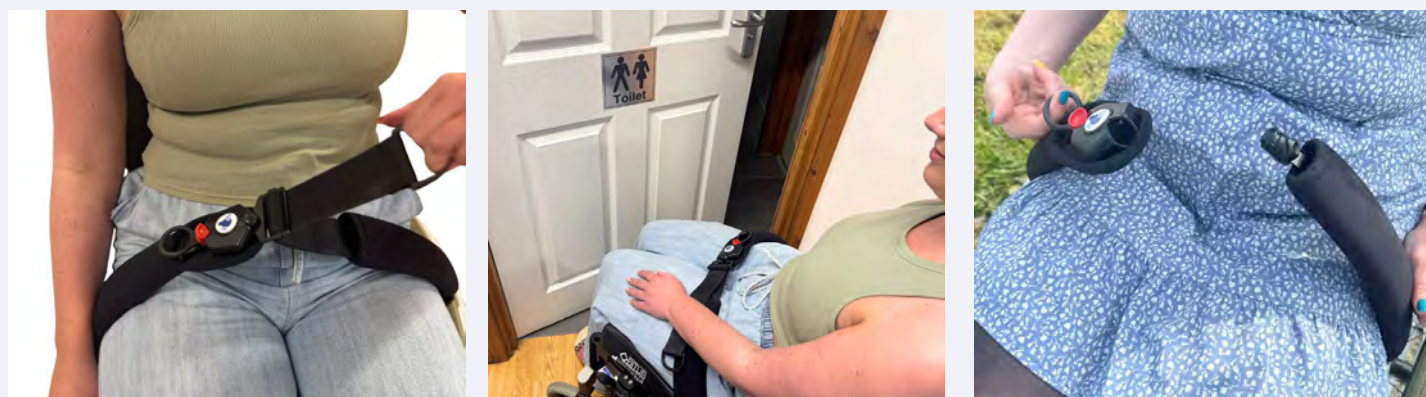
Not all wheelchair users need or choose to wear a lap belt. For some, a lap belt offers postural support and helps prevent other health issues which may be caused by poor posture. For others, a lap belt is necessary to prevent falls caused by involuntary movements. In either case, leaving a required lap belt unfastened has a detrimental effect on the user. Alternatively, requiring help with transfers limits individuals to transferring only when their assistance is available.

Typical lap belt buckles are easy enough to use if you have no issues with dexterity and strength in your hands and fingers, and the use of both sides of your body. However, they are near-impossible to use if you have a disability that affects your hand function, such as a Spinal Cord Injury, Brain Injury or Cerebral Palsy; or one-sided weakness, for example following a Stroke.

We are pleased to offer a solution which provides accessibility to lap belt use, whilst still holding all the necessary safety ratings and being easy to access through wheelchair services. Our range of Soloc belts is designed, as the rest of our products are, with reduced hand function in mind. Each Soloc belt features the unique magnetically-aided buckle, which is easy to fasten and release, even with reduced hand function. A mechanical fixing ensures that the belt will stay closed, even under pressure.

We offer three unique options, with a belt for every user, including those with limited or no hand function, and those with the use of just one hand.

In trials the Soloc belts have improved confidence and mobility for those with limited dexterity and helped them to become more independent as well as improving their safety. Simply put by one user: *It's just **Freedom!** not having to ask people for assistance anymore.*



Paul's New Hope – Thanks to Stiltz Homelifts

Paul Couldrey is a GDPR Legal Specialist and a Star Wars Superfan, who lives with muscular dystrophy.

After a serious fall left him facing new mobility challenges, Paul began searching for a way to future-proof his home and continue doing what he loves. That's when he discovered Stiltz Homelifts.

Paul has a busy life. Working from home, he's also an in-demand conference speaker. He travels to Star Wars Comic Cons and enjoys creating from his garage workshop. His Stiltz Homelift has given him full access to every part of his home and made life so much simpler.



Stiltz offer:

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"I'll never forget having the lift installed; it was the best birthday present for me to be able to go upstairs to work again."



To arrange a meeting or to learn more, contact our Trusted Assessors on **01384 880 343** or email us at **enquiries@stiltz.co.uk**



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Dolphin Stair Lifts Southwest is a second generation family-run business. As part of the exclusive Stannah Accredited Distributors programme, it is the sole Stannah distributor in the Devon area.

It has a large showroom available for personalised appointments with free parking in Crediton on the Lords Meadow Industrial Estate.



For Ros and Brian, a happy and lively couple, both retired and living in Barnstaple, North Devon, maintaining independence in their cherished home was essential.

At ages 75 and 80, and both dealing with back issues – Ros having recently had surgery and Brian managing the effects of a procedure from 10 years ago – stairs were becoming increasingly difficult. 'We didn't want to alter the look of the house,' says Ros. 'And we didn't want something that shouted, "mobility aid".'

'I used to pull myself up the stairs with my arms. But the pain in my hands made that harder. You don't realise how much strain you're under until you don't have to do it anymore. Now I don't have to worry about falling or hurting myself. It's a big relief, not just for us, but for our family too,' says Ros. For Ros and Brian, choosing to stay in their multi-story home wasn't just practical, it was a lifestyle decision. 'We lived in a bungalow before, and it just didn't fit us,' they explain. 'We love this house, the views, the light. We wanted to stay where we are, and a through floor lift made that possible.'

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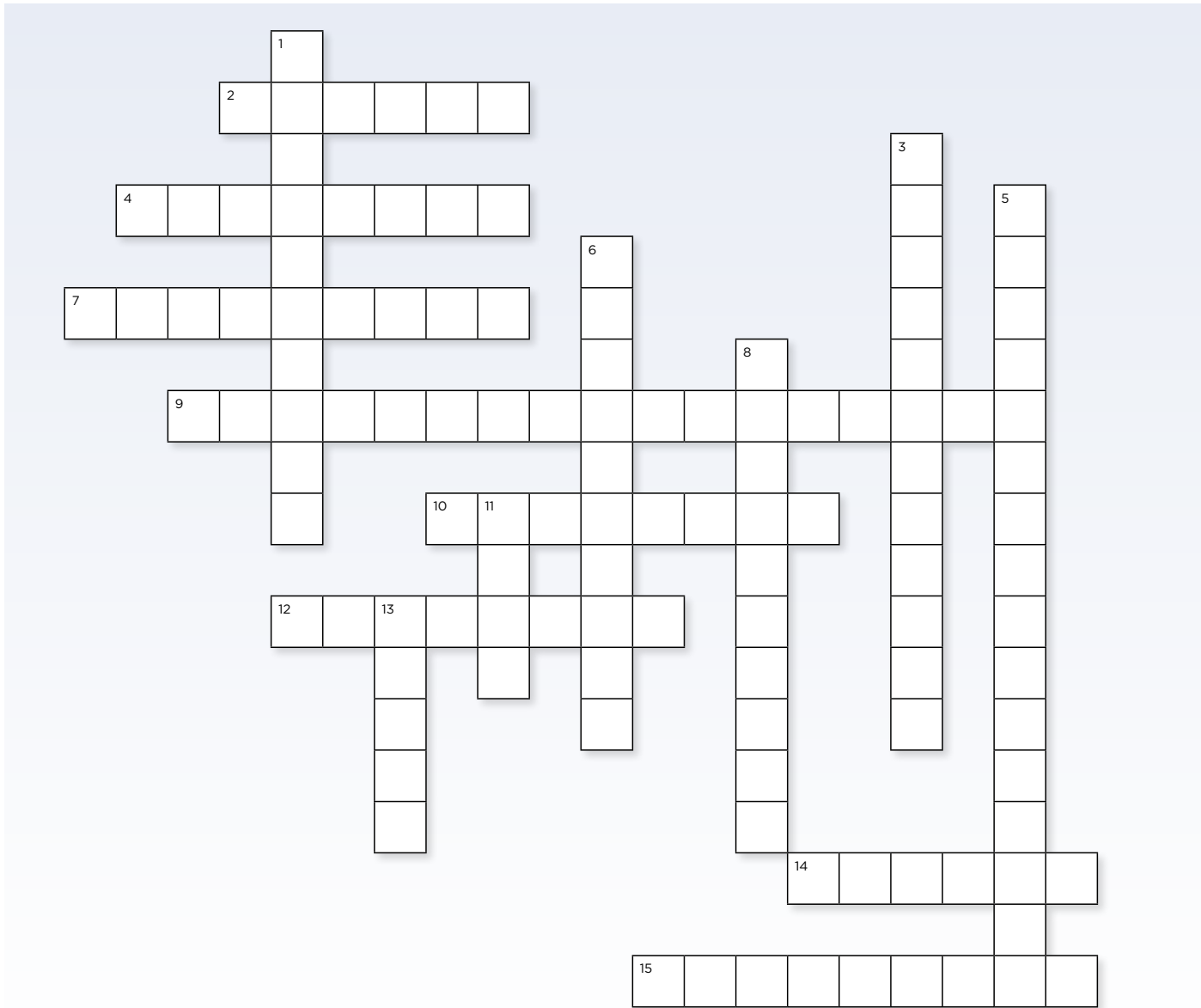
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- Principles of safe handling and risk assessment
- Weight-bearing activities and transfers
- Getting in and out of bed
- Moving in bed
- Management of the falling and fallen person
- Transferring people with hoists
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MOBILITY IN MOTION CAR ADAPTATION
CROSSWORD



Rotadorm
Reducing The Cost Of Care



ACROSS →

- 2). Mobility in Motion's range of transfer plates are available as electric or?
- 4). Mobility in Motion's solutions help and support people with a wide range of disability and different levels of?
- 7). Which Paralympic Wheelchair basketball player is an ambassador for Mobility in Motion?
- 9). If your client has never driven with hand controls before, what we would suggest they complete?
- 10). Mobility in Motion's swivel seat range allows your clients to _____ easily into their vehicle.
- 12). Mobility in Motion won a Disability Smart Award this year for 'Inclusive 'what' Experience'
- 14). Hand controls transfer the function of the 'what' to someone's hands.
- 15). What is a popular solution to lift and load a mobility device into the back of the car?

DOWN ↓

- 1). Mobility in Motion can support your clients located _____
- 3). Mobility in Motion believe that vehicle adaptations provide your clients with _____
- 5). Mobility in Motion's products can be installed into traditional petrol/diesel cars as well as _____
- 6). Mobility in Motion's range of adaptations are perfect for drivers and _____
- 8). We have a team of regional field demonstrators, who can visit your clients to complete an _____
- 11). Mobility in Motion has a product called a 'Chair topper' but what part of the vehicle is this installed to?
- 13). Mobility in Motion's person hoist lifts someone into the car seat using a _____



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