

TOP 5 Wheelchair Problems That Can Hurt You

The conventional wheelchairs most often used in hospitals were designed for home use. Some of the features that work so well for individuals are actually detrimental in an institutional setting. Your hospital, staff, patients and bottom line can all be hurt because your current wheelchairs were not made to meet the needs of hospitals.

1. Foldable wheelchairs or those with a collapsible frame are ideal for home use because they are easy to take with you to doctors' appointments, on shopping trips or when visiting friends and family. However, those same features also make it easy to take those wheelchairs out of your hospital. Sometimes, the theft is blatant, sometimes it happens by accident, like when a cab driver mistakenly assumes the chair belongs to your patient. On average, 30% of hospital wheelchairs are stolen annually, and there is a huge cost to replace them. *Staxi wheelchairs don't fold and can't be put in the trunk of a car, making them harder to steal.*

2. Conventional wheelchairs have removable parts for easier transport. At home, being able to remove the arm and footrests make it easier to fit them in the backseat of a car or the corner of a van. In a hospital, that same feature translates into the major loss of essential parts needed to safely move patients from point A to point B. Forty percent of hospital chairs currently in use are missing parts, and that's a problem in terms of patient safety, compliance issues and potential lawsuits with financial consequences. *Staxi arm and leg rests are bolted to the frame of the chair, making it impossible to lose parts.*

3. Conventional wheelchair brakes can be engaged by a patient, making it more difficult to control that patient's safety. Plus, someone must remember to apply the brake appropriately each and every time a chair is used. This can make for an unsafe situation in a hospital as an untrained attendant can easily forget to set the brake or a patient, who is likely to be unfamiliar with a wheelchair, can just rise when they get to the destination allowing the chair to scoot backward. Either the patient or the attendant or both can be physically hurt. *Staxi wheelchairs have automatic brakes.*

4. There are no wheelchair inventory issues in a home, but hospitals need an easy way to store their wheelchairs where they are most needed. When chairs are scattered around a facility, the entire hospital schedule can be disrupted while attendants have to run around looking for transport. Patients can line up waiting to be taken back to their rooms after tiring procedures, and staff efficiency is comprised. *Staxi wheelchairs are stackable making it easy for staff, volunteers, and patients to find them. (Stands available.)*

5. Conventional wheelchairs are made for average-sized users. That's fine for most people and helps control costs for the manufacturer. Hospitals, however, need to accommodate patients of all sizes easily and safely. *Staxi wheelchairs have a maximum weight capacity of 600 lbs, and their arm rests may be moved up and out of the way making patient transfer easy, comfortable and safe.*

