

## What is the process to obtain a seated positioning system?

1. **Contact** Central Wisconsin Center's outpatient rehabilitation services coordinator
2. **Pre-evaluation** will be done over the phone to collect information regarding diagnosis, medical assistance/insurance coverage, age of current seating system, and current concerns with equipment.
3. **Evaluation.** A Central Wisconsin Center physical therapist, occupational therapist, and orthopedic appliance technician complete an initial evaluation to determine the client's skills and how to best meet their individual needs. This may be done on an inpatient or outpatient basis.
4. **Payment approval** from medical assistance, Family Care or private insurance. The prior authorization process for durable medical equipment may take two to three months. The seating system will be crafted when payment approval is verified.
5. **Construction.** Depending on the client's needs, technicians will handcraft a completely customized seating system, which may include seat, back, trunk, hip pads, abduction pommel, headrest, and tray.
6. **Fittings.** Outpatient clients generally require three full days of fittings. Inpatient clients will be fitted during their stay. The client is positioned in the seating system while each piece of the system is adjusted to allow for support, comfort, and pressure distribution.

Central Wisconsin Center provides only the seated positioning system. A wheelchair is not provided. Staff provide assistance in choosing an appropriate wheelchair and ordering it from a vendor near the client's home.

*Seating systems are individually constructed from layers of foam, wood, plastic, and vinyl.*



## How long does it take to get a seating system?

An appointment is scheduled after the prior approval is complete for both the seating system and wheelchair. For inpatients, the seating system is fabricated prior to admission so that it can be taken home on discharge. For outpatients, two or three appointments are scheduled over a three-week period for fittings. The seating system will be completed prior to the final visit.

## For more information contact:

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**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT  
of HEALTH SERVICES**

Division of Care and Treatment Services  
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Wisconsin Department of Health Services

# Rehabilitation Technology Lab



## What can the Central Wisconsin Center Rehabilitation Technology Lab do for me?

The lab provides customized contoured seated positioning systems and other positioning equipment for clients with severe musculoskeletal deformities. Physical and occupational therapists evaluate the client's individualized needs and closely follow the fitting process to ensure the best possible results.

## Who benefits from a seated positioning system from the Central Wisconsin Center Rehabilitation Technology Lab?

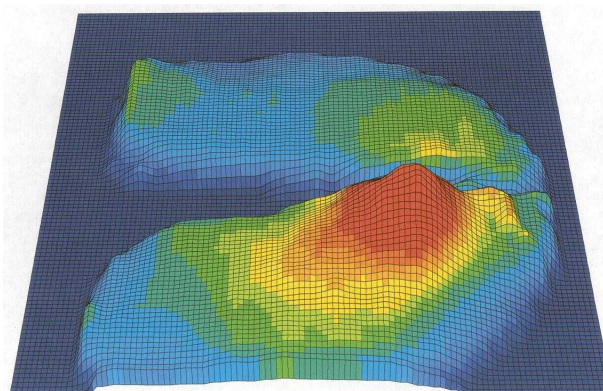
Anyone who has had difficulty finding a seating system that fits correctly will benefit from a seated positioning system from the Central Wisconsin Center Rehabilitation Technology Lab. This could be due to increase muscle spasticity, large spinal deformity, hip dislocation, asymmetrical sitting posture, inadequate head control, problems with skin breakdown, or other needs for customized support.



## Pressure distribution

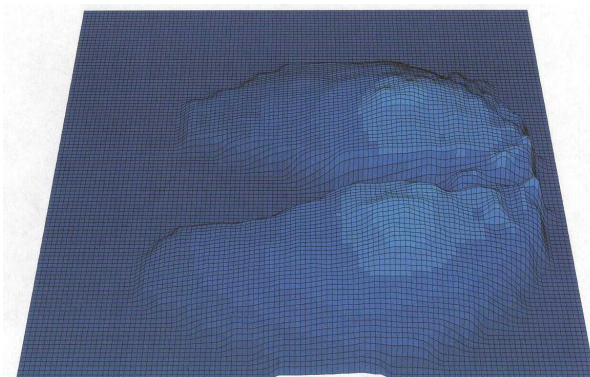
Uneven distribution of pressure in a seating system can lead to ulcers and long-term health problems. The Central Wisconsin Center Rehabilitation Technology Lab's custom fitting process provides superior pressure relief. A computerized pressure mapping system is used to measure progress and ensure the most evenly distributed pressure possible.

### Before



*Red area shows increased pressure.*

### After



*Even color shows well distributed pressure.*

## Custom fit

Each component in a Central Wisconsin Center Rehabilitation Technology Lab seating system is custom-made to fit the client exactly. Technicians carve different varieties of foam by hand, adjusting each component separately for a snug fit. This component system allows for modification and replacement of parts as needed to allow for growth or daily wear and tear.



*A technician carves a foam backrest in small layers to achieve a perfect fit.*