

Development of a scooter training program for community-dwelling older adults

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Although scooters can enable the mobility for individuals who have trouble walking, accidents are a serious concern. In order to develop better scooter training a study was undertaken to explore the perspectives of various stakeholders (e.g., users, prescribers, vendors and caregivers) on the importance of and issues with scooter training and to identify elements recommended for a new scooter-training program. Methods: A cross-sectional survey was posted on line for completion by past and present scooter users, their caregivers, scooter prescribers and vendors across Canada and internationally. These stakeholders were asked questions about the importance of scooter training, the training currently provided or received, and their preferred content and format of training. Results: Most stakeholders strongly agreed that scooter training was important to improve skills and increase confidence. However, only 25% of scooter users reported receiving training. Most participants agreed about the basic (e.g. on/off switch, control, speeds, battery maintenance, etc.) and advanced skills (e.g. completing community errands, using an elevator, public transit, crossing intersections, etc.) that should be included as part of scooter training. Conclusion: Despite the perceived importance scooter training, few users receive any, which suggests a large unmet need. The findings of this study lay the groundwork for the development of a scooter training program that will give users the skills needed to mobilize safely and to take an active role in their communities.