

## Step Three: Getting a Prescription for an Assessment

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### Prescription *Before* Assessment

You need a prescription from your doctor *before* you get a Wheelchair Evaluation and Assessment. Your doctor will write your prescription, but a clinician or therapist does the Wheelchair Evaluation. Typically the clinician is an Occupational Therapist (OT) or Physical Therapist (PT), so the prescription from your doctor will read, "OT or PT Wheelchair Evaluation." Getting a prescription from your doctor is essential, because it allows the therapist (OT or PT) to conduct an evaluation.

### *You* Schedule Your Assessment

Once you have the prescription from the doctor, call the wheelchair clinic (it may be a PT department or an OT department) and schedule an appointment. If you have the therapist's direct number go ahead and call. She or he will probably tell you to schedule through the office person.

Remember, whether your doctor makes a referral or not, **YOU must call and set up the appointment for your Wheelchair Evaluation and Assessment.** It is your responsibility to make an appointment for your Wheelchair Evaluation.

### You Choose your Clinician or Therapist

Your doctor may have recommendations for a local therapist or seating clinic that can provide this assessment. However, you have a right to choose your own clinician instead if you would rather.

### To find an OT or PT on your own you can...

- Ask people you know for referrals
- Connect with organizations and support groups like [Spinal Cord Central](#) for referrals
- Search the [Seating and Mobility Specialists' certification websites](#) for qualified assistive technology professionals.

### OT and PT Assistive Technology Certification

Basic certification is available for providers who have extra knowledge and experience in providing assistive technology (AT) including wheelchairs. This AT certification is through the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA).



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In 2010, RESNA introduced an additional advanced certification in seating and mobility. This certification is called the Seating and Mobility Specialist [certification](#) for detailed information about certification, and for a complete listing of all providers with current ATP and/or SMS certification. This certification is available for providers who have extra knowledge and experience in providing assistive technology such as wheelchairs. This certification is also through the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA).

To search a list of certified AT professional you can go to the [RESNA website](#).