Clinicians typically recommend a repositioning program using power seat functions to help their clients avoid painful pressure issues and skin breakdown, as well as build on progress made during rehabilitation. But what happens when the client goes home? The problem many clinicians face is getting their clients to maintain that consistent repositioning regimen for improved health, well-being and independence.

The University of Pittsburgh's Human Engineering Research Laboratories and Permobil have partnered to provide the solution. The patent-pending Virtual Seating Coach will allow clinicians to program appropriate seating recommendations, remind their clients to keep up their good work, and track the progress… all with a smartphone!
HOW THE VIRTUAL SEATING COACH WORKS

Through an app installed on the client’s smartphone, clinicians will be able to prescribe a specific seating and positioning regimen, including the amount of tilt and recline, hold time for the position, as well as number of times per day the functions should be used. The app will then provide alerts to the client when it’s time to reposition, and will even automatically adjust to the client’s habits. Plus, the clinician will be able to track the use of the prescribed regimen as the data is recorded through the app.

The phone uses a Bluetooth connection to communicate with the wheelchair and maintains its battery power via an onboard USB charger.

**BENEFITS FOR CLINICIANS**

- Program specific angles and intervals of time for clients to use power positioning.
- Track client compliance and positioning practices, allowing for initiation of interventions to help avoid problems before they occur.
- Clients get real time feedback on seating angles to ensure they reach the correct position prescribed.
- Step-by-step guidance will coach clients in proper sequencing of seat functions as well as appropriate use of powered seating on altered terrains to improve safety and stability.
- Monitoring and data collection allows for benchmarking and creates evidence for medical justification.

**BENEFITS FOR CLIENTS**

- Visual and auditory reminders help clients follow the prescribed repositioning regimen like a fitness program.
- Individual habits are learned and the program is automatically adjusted to fit daily lifestyles.
- Smartphone battery remains charged by using power from the wheelchair.
- The application’s smart timing functions won’t recommend repositioning while the chair is in motion (like traveling in a vehicle) or if the regimen has recently been performed.

The new way of coaching your clients is almost here!