

## Can powered wheelchairs really support 24hr positioning?

✓ YES

### Memory Function Examples

**Working**

- Seat level or slight tilt
- Seat elevated for desk
- Closed back angle
- Legrest at 90°



**Watch TV / Relax**

- Seated in most comfortable position



**Leisure Activities**

- Seat flat & lowered
- Closed back angle
- Legrest at 90°
- Footplate to the floor




**Cooking**

- Seat elevated to height of worktop
- Footplate 90°
- Backrest recline forward



**Standing Transfer**

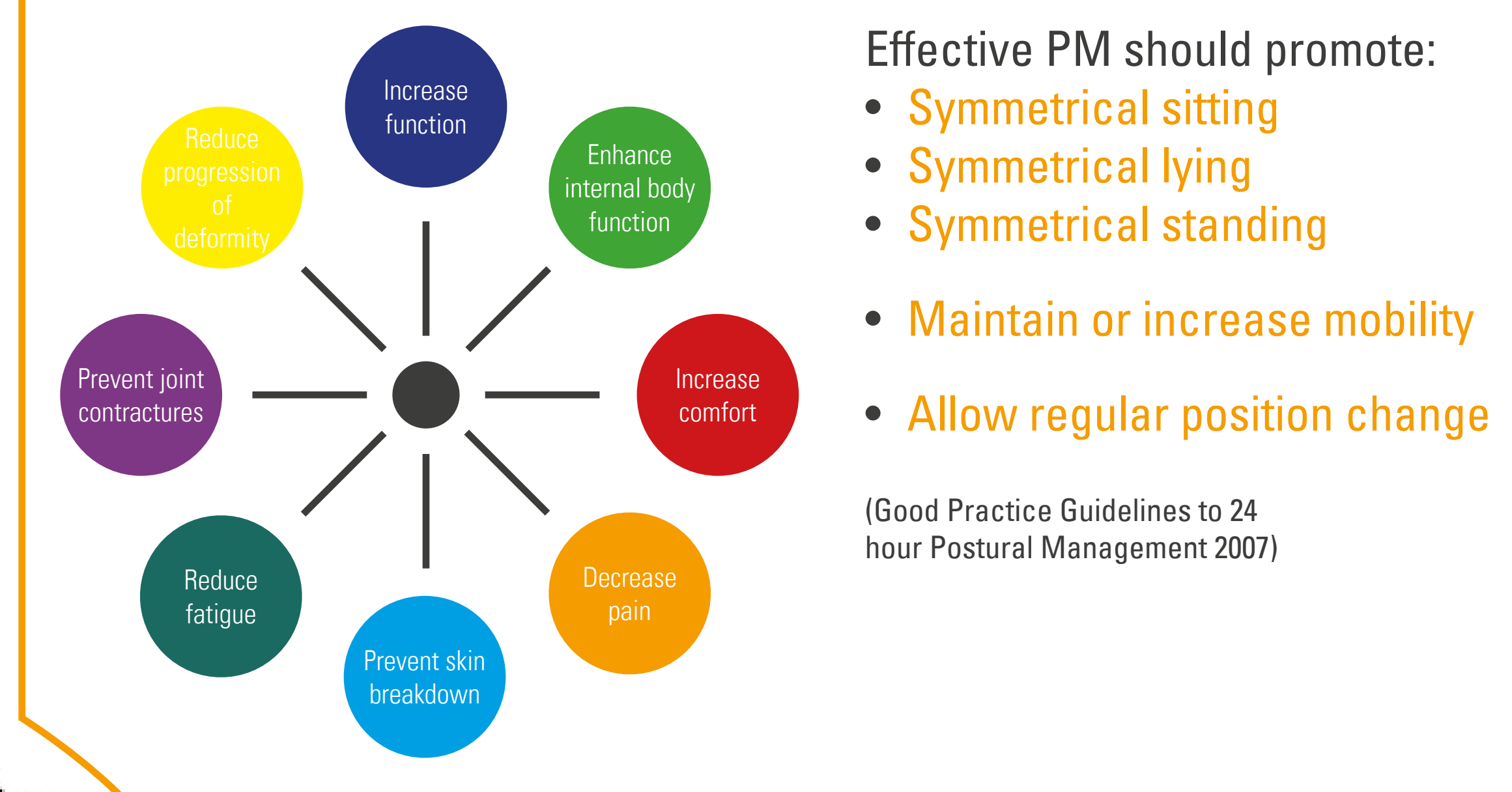
- Seat elevated
- Legrest to floor
- Seat tilt flat
- Backrest recline forward



### What is 24hr Posture Management?

- "A planned approach encompassing all activities and interventions which impact on an individual's posture and function" (Gericke 2006)
- Involves optimising **seated**, **lying** and **standing** postures throughout day and night
- Encompasses all daily activities and may involve:
  - equipment e.g. **Wheelchairs**
  - individual therapy
  - active exercise
  - medicine
  - orthotics and splinting
  - special surgical equipment

### Why is it important?

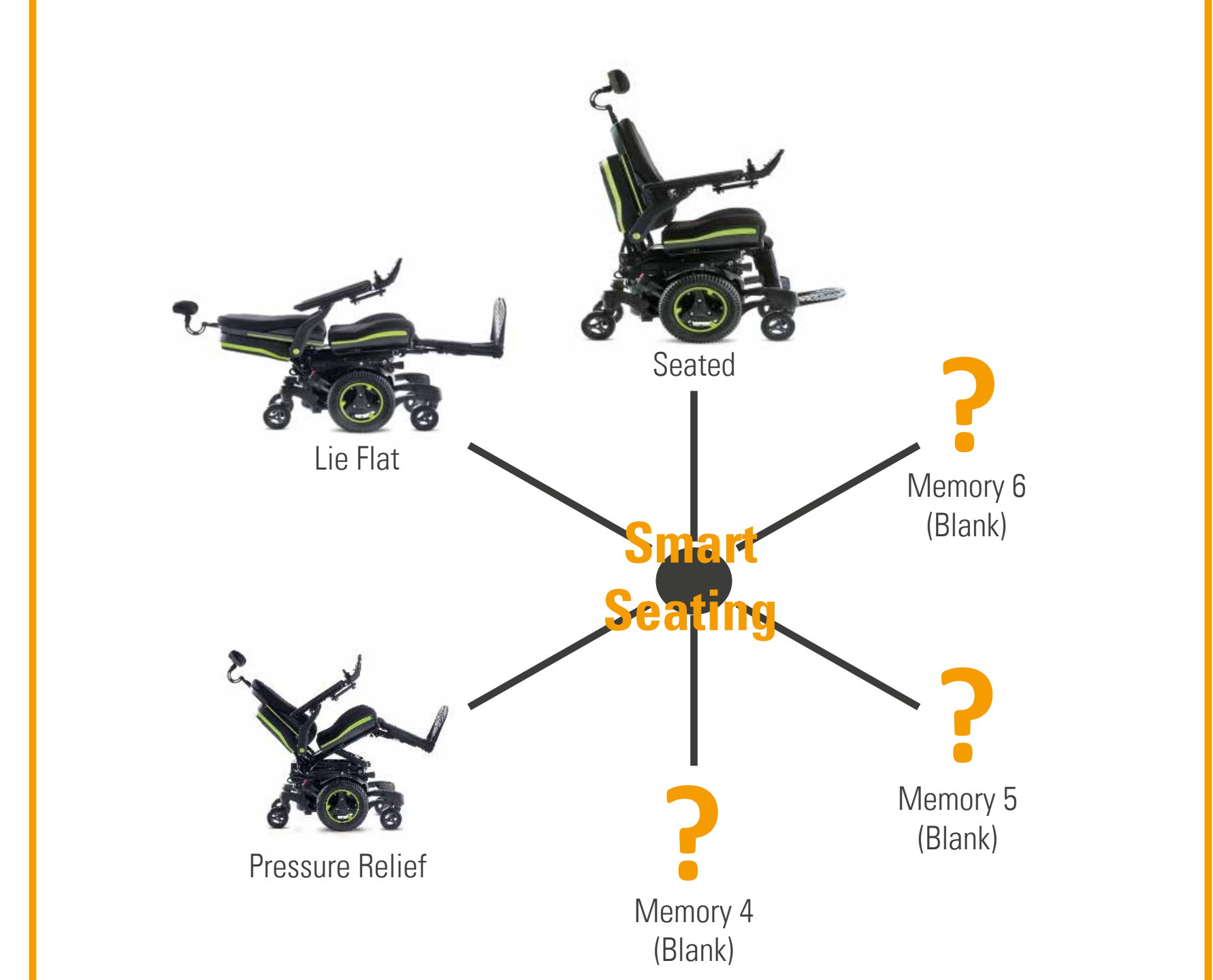


### When is it needed?

- For Individuals who:
- Cannot achieve or maintain **good posture** in order to **enable function**
  - Cannot sit without **external support**
  - Cannot sit or lie **comfortably** or **without pain**
  - Are at risk of **secondary complications**:
    - Skin damage
    - Contractures
    - Abnormal postures

### How?

- SIX MEMORY POSITIONS:**
- 3 default memory positions
  - 3 blank memory positions – all
  - Customisable to the client
  - Quick access to regular positions for daily living functions
  - Customise to each client
  - One press and move to each function



### Clinical Guidelines


Electrically powered seating can:

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Enable position change

**Benefits:**

- Improve posture
- Enhance function
- Improve transfers
- Improve physiological processes
- Enhance visual orientation, speech, alertness
- Redistribute pressure
- Regulate spasticity
- Accommodate/ prevent contractures
- Manage oedema
- Increase seating tolerance and comfort



[www.resna.org](http://www.resna.org) 2015

[www.pmguk.co.uk](http://www.pmguk.co.uk) 2014

### What can powered wheelchairs offer?

- ✓ **Independent mobility**
- ✓ **Enhanced postural support**
  - various seat systems
- ✓ **Altered seat position**
  - Assist movement into sit, lie or stand
  - Improve physiological function
  - Maintain or improve joint range
  - Pain relief
  - Increase functional independence

### References

- Gericke T (2006). Postural management for children with cerebral palsy: consensus statement. *Developmental Medicine & Child Neurology* 48 (04), 244.
- International Best Practice Guidelines BPG4A 'Seat-Elevating Devices for Wheelchair Users' 2014 [https://www.pmguk.co.uk/data/page\\_files/Best%20Practice/BPG4A%20Seat-elevating%20Devices%20for%20Wheelchair%20Users.pdf](https://www.pmguk.co.uk/data/page_files/Best%20Practice/BPG4A%20Seat-elevating%20Devices%20for%20Wheelchair%20Users.pdf)
- 'Good Practice Guidelines to 24 hour Postural Management' (2007). The Northwest Group of Paediatric Physiotherapists & Children's Occupational Therapists [http://www.manchester.nhs.uk/document\\_uploads/CP%20Network/24\\_hour\\_postural\\_management\\_draft\\_27.04.pdf](http://www.manchester.nhs.uk/document_uploads/CP%20Network/24_hour_postural_management_draft_27.04.pdf)
- RESNA 2015 'RESNA Position on the Application of Tilt, Recline, and Elevating Legrests for Wheelchairs Literature Update'. [http://www.resna.org/sites/default/files/legacy/resources/position-papers/RESNA%20PP%20on%20Tilt%20Recline\\_2015.pdf](http://www.resna.org/sites/default/files/legacy/resources/position-papers/RESNA%20PP%20on%20Tilt%20Recline_2015.pdf)