



## Case Study

### Invacare® Aquatec **Ocean**®

## Promoting **Comfort** and **Care** in the Community

### About the *Aquatec Ocean*

The *Aquatec Ocean* was launched in the UK in 2003 and is currently a standard stock item in Caerphilly County Borough Council's Community Equipment Loan Store via the NHS Wales, Shared Partnership, 'Value Wales' framework.

Due to its modular nature, the *Aquatec Ocean* can be issued in its most basic shower/commode format or can be modified using a range of off-the-shelf accessories, such as; lateral supports, safety bar and amputee supports **to accommodate a range of physical presentations and support needs.**

### About the person and condition

The client has learning disabilities, is non-weight bearing and has a curvature of the spine. As a result the client leans heavily to the right when in sitting. The client is continent.

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## The Challenges Faced

The client was using the Arjo Malibu chair attachment for toileting and bathing (this clips onto mast and is used for transfers in/out of the bath). When the client was hoisted into the seat, the armrests folded forward and the handles were positioned in front of him.

**When in situ the client leaned heavily to the right side.** It was difficult for carers to pull the right armrest forward due to the client leaning severely. **The client however liked the security that was provided by holding onto the armrest.**

## The Solution

Arrangements were made for Invacare's Business Development Manager - Claire Hughes to attend a joint assessment at the client's property with the aim of **improving the client's comfort and posture** in showering and toileting. It was noted that a recent power chair seating assessment resulted in the prescription of a right lateral support. This worked well in improving the client's posture.

The client was assessed seated in the *Aquatec Ocean* shower chair commode with three accessories; a right hand lateral support, visco elastic foam soft seat and a safety bar that secured to the armrests once the client was seated.

The *Ocean* has a **tension adjustable backrest**, which allows **adjustment of the backrest to accommodate the curvature of the spine**, this enabled the client to sit further back into the seat. Together with the support from the right hand lateral support and immersion into the visco elastic foam seat, **his posture was well supported**. Additionally, the safety bar offered further security and **met the need of the client to feel secure in the chair**.



The *Ocean* shower chair commode is now in use on a daily basis for toileting and showering, giving the client **improved comfort and function through corrected posture** and providing manual handling benefits for the carers.

## About the Author

Beverly Butler is a Community Occupational Therapist and has been employed by Caerphilly Social Services, South Wales (with adults) for the last five years.

