

Meena

Equipment and adaptations

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So we've had a specialist OT who deals with MND patients and they were amazing. They have more specialised knowledge of the kind of equipment that would be required.

And also the MND Association who were brilliant from the first day really because they provided my dad with a recliner and a special pressure cushion, which has been great because, you know, since the diagnosis, dad's mobility has reduced quite significantly and he spends a lot of time watching TV sat in that chair.

Recently we were given like a multi-use wheeled commode, which is amazing. It looks just like a wheelchair. It's very lightweight but you can use it to take him from wherever he is, bedroom, living room to the bathroom. But it can also, you can also use it as a shower chair, which is great because we're not having to move him around too much and cause a lot of disturbance to him.

We've also been provided with stand assists but unfortunately, they haven't helped at the moment because dad's grips have gone now. So without the grip really it can't help. We also have a hoist and so because the condition is now spreading to his leg, he's getting very weak and so he's had a lot of falls. So the hoist has had to be brought in for those situations because I can't lift him on my own.

He's quite a big man. It's too – it's made me feel sad initially to be honest, because my dad has always been extremely active, highly independent, fiercely independent. And seeing him not being able to continue with his independence and having all this equipment around is just a constant reminder that he needs this help.

But as we've got used to using them and we've learnt more and more about the condition and what aids are helpful and we actually now look at it as this is brilliant because we've, it's actually flipped our thinking.

So we now think actually having these aids are helping us maintain his independence. So instead of looking at it as a negative, which is how we started, now we've realised that actually they're a good thing because without them my dad would not be able to do a lot of stuff. So we have a wheelchair – it's just a standard wheelchair at the moment.

So it's very lightweight, very compact, and it's great because dad used to love walking and he can't do that anymore. And so during the summer, all he wanted to do was just get out and enjoy the sun, sunshine. But also on the weekends we tend to go shopping together. It's like our thing that we do together. So yeah, a wheelchair has been really helpful.

I'm quite tall and so is my dad. So the standard wheelchair wasn't really appropriate for us. We need to have adjustments made for the height and the feet. We spoke to the OT specialist who was able to then liaise with the wheelchair services and get it all done for us.

We have actually just recently purchased a vehicle as well because you know, it's not just the practical kind of walking, it's also the transportation, which we didn't think about really.

So this particular vehicle has a seat that actually comes out. And so you can just transfer him from his wheelchair onto a seat, which is really comfortable. And you're just lifted up – the press of a button and he gets in. So it takes the pressure of me having to lift him.

It makes it easier for him because he's not having to be manually handled all the time. And also he's comfortable through the journey at least. So then the wheelchair time is a little bit less and it just makes it more fun. It's actually quite a funky vehicle.