## **Accessible Parking Permits**

Did you know that Accessible Parking Permits are available to qualifying patients of the Bleeding Disorders Program at no cost? Permits are issued on a permanent (up to five years) or temporary basis (up to twelve months) to individuals who meet at least one of the following eligibility criteria:



- Cannot walk without assistance of another person or a brace, cane, crutch or lower limb prosthetic device or similar assistive device or who requires the assistance of a wheelchair.
- Suffers from lung disease to such an extent that forced expiratory volume in one second is less than one litre.
- Portable oxygen is a medical necessity.
- Cardiovascular impairment classified as Class III or Class IV to standards accepted by the American Heart Association or Class III or IV according to the Canadian Cardiovascular Standard.
- Severely limited in the ability to walk due to an arthritic, neurological, musculoskeletal or orthopaedic condition. (This may include hemophilia.)
- Visual acuity is 20/200 or poorer in the better eye with or without corrective lenses or whose greatest diameter of the field of vision in both eyes is 20 degrees or less.
- Condition(s) or functional impairment that severely limits his/her mobility. (This may include hemophilia.)

Patients who meet the eligibility criteria may be provided with an Accessible Parking Permit (APP) application form signed by the program physiotherapist. These permits are valid immediately – patients can take them to any driver and vehicle license issuing office, where a temporary permit will be issued on the spot. Within four to six weeks, a permanent, laminated dashboard permit is mailed to patients by the Ministry of Transportation. Patients do not require a car or driver's license to qualify for an Accessible Parking Permit. These permits are issued to individuals, not vehicles, and are portable. Portable permits allow patients to use them in any vehicle in which they are traveling (as either a driver or passenger).

Patients with hemophilia may qualify for a temporary permit if mobility is severely impaired by a lower extremity bleeding episode. Patients with hemophilia may qualify for a permanent permit if mobility is permanently, severely impaired by hemophilic arthropathy. Children with hemophilia may also qualify for temporary or permanent permits if indicated.

If you are interested in discussing your eligibility for an Accessible Parking Permit, please feel free to do so at your regular clinic assessment. If you require renewal of your permanent permit, please contact the program at least four weeks prior to the expiry of your permit.

Mary Jane Steele, PT Physiotherapist, Bleeding Disorders Program