CareFlex

AlphaCare II® User Instructions UI



These are the user instructions for the CareFlex AlphaCare® chair. Please read them carefully before using the chair, and keep them in a safe place for future reference. These instructions include details of the performance of the chair. If the chair should start behaving outside of its intended performance, show signs of damage or excessive wear, or otherwise feel unsuitable, please take it out of service and contact CareFlex or your CareFlex Distributor immediately.

WARNING
A level of supervision appropriate to the user's abilities must be applied at all times.

CE UKCA **Class 1 Medical Device**

The AlphaCare® Chair

The AlphaCare is our all-new comfortable yet robust seating system, with a key emphasis on safety and stability. The chair has been designed and engineered to meet the needs of individuals with postural instability and/or significant movements. The AlphaCare is suitable for individuals with Huntington's disease, dementia, and other neurological and neuromuscular conditions in all health and social care environments.

The AlphaCare's linked seat and back recline function promotes comfort and feelings of security within the chair; as the back angle reclines, the seat angle adjusts to encourage postural stability and optimum pelvic positioning. The contoured back encourages a midline position for those with mild to moderate postural care needs, to aid physiological function and engagement in activities. Supportive armrests provide lateral feedback to further promote a sense of safety and stability.

The ergonomic block leg rest fully supports the lower limbs, allowing a comfortable position for relaxing and energy conservation. The leg rest is securely fitted to the chair by a unique intuitive attachment system, the CareFlex EasySecure, that can be easily removed for transfers, repositioning or activities, especially for those who are more ambulant. Reflexion® foam to both the seat and leg rest also addresses the pressure care needs of individuals with limited active movement who may be sitting for prolonged periods of time.

Identification

Each AlphaCare chair has a unique chair number which must be quoted during any correspondence with CareFlex or the local CareFlex Distributor. This is on a silver label on the back of the chair.

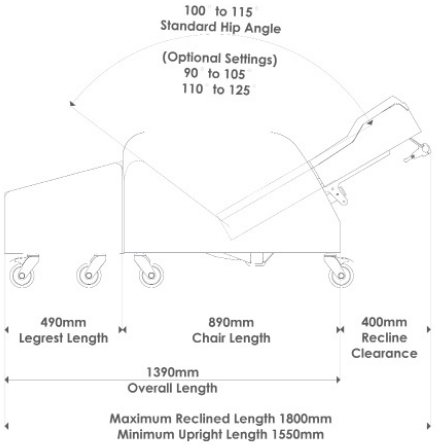


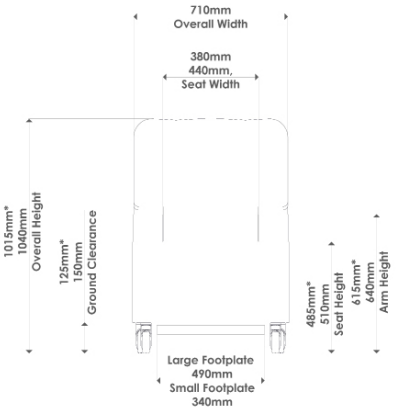
Silver label on the frame at the rear of the chair, providing a unique serial number.

Set-up and Adjustment

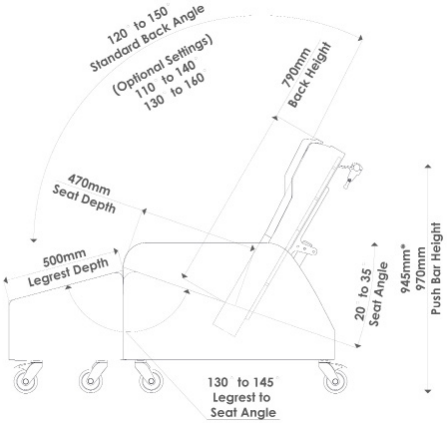
Please refer to the AlphaCare Assessment & Prescription Guide for guidance. Chair dimensions being set at the manufacturing stage ensures a robust seating system that can support individuals with significant and/or severe movements. The back angle setting, which is dependent on hip range of movement and recline requirements, can be adjusted by a qualified technician without the need for the chair to return to factory (new parts may be indicated).
Regularly check the AlphaCare set-up to ensure it is working as intended by supporting the user's posture appropriately and that they are benefiting from the integrated pressure management.
Contact the user's Health & Social Care Professional, CareFlex or the local CareFlex Distributor if further support is indicated.

Technical Drawings





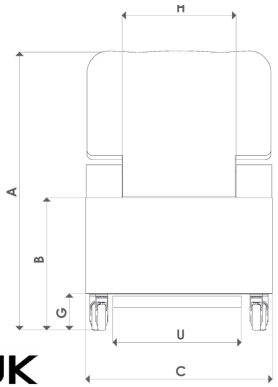
* When fitted with optional 75mm Castor wheels instead of 100mm Standard Castor wheels

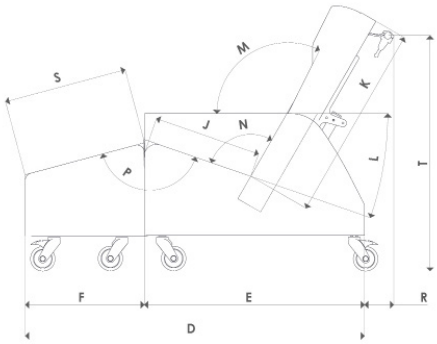


Technical Data

BASIC DIMENSIONS		MEASUREMENTS	COMMENTS
A	Overall Height	1015mm*/1040mm	*when fitted with 75mm Castors
B	Seat Height	485*/510mm	*when fitted with 75mm Castors
C	Overall Width	710mm	
D	Overall Length	1390mm	With Block Leg Rest Attached
E	Chair Length	890mm	
F	Leg Rest Length	490mm	
G	Clearance Height	125*/150mm	*when fitted with 75mm Castors
H	Seat Width	380mm or 440mm	
J	Seat Depth	470mm	
K	Back Height	790mm	
L	Seat Angle	20° (Starting Position) - 35° (At Full Recline)	Range 15°
M	Back Angle	A: 120° - 150° (Standard) B: 110° - 140° (Factory Option) C: 130° - 160° (Factory Option)	Range 30°
N	Hip Angle	A: 100° - 115° (Standard) B: 90° - 105° (Factory Option) C: 110° - 125° (Factory Option)	Range 15° (Determined by the Back Angle Selection)
P	Leg Rest Angle	130° - 145°	Range 15° (Dependent On Seat Angle)
R	Max Recline Clearance	400mm	
S	Leg Rest Depth	500mm	
T	Push Bar Height	945mm*/970mm	*when fitted with 75mm Castors
U	Footplate Width	Large 490mm Small 340mm	
	Weights	Chair - 60kg Block Leg Rest - 18kg Maximum User Weight - 100kg*/160kg	*when fitted with 75mm Castors

(All measurements ±10mm / 5°)





CE UKCA

1. Brakes & Castors

The AlphaCare is fitted with castors which make the chair suitable for portering users on smooth, level ground. The two castors at the back of the chair are fully braked and the two castors at the front of the leg rest block are also fully braked. There is an option to also upgrade the front wheels on the chair to fully braked as well as the rear.

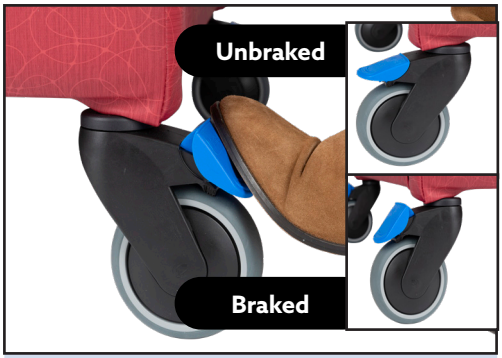
- To locate the brakes, push the chair forward so that the rear and front castors swing around and the brakes can easily be accessed.
- Use the foot to press down on the end of the blue brake lever to lock the castors.
- Gently knock upwards on the top of the blue brake lever to unlock the castors.

Always brake the castors before the user transfers on or off the chair.

If 75mm castors are used, the maximum user weight is 100kg.



Remove leg rest block and apply chair brakes before transfers on or off the chair.



Use the foot to press down on the end to engage the brake.

2. Portering

- A risk assessment should be completed prior to portering an individual in the chair, considering the combined weight of the user and the chair, the effort and load on the caregiver, and the user's condition, especially any significant or severe movements that may destabilise the chair or lead to injury through entrapment or impact with doorways, handrails, etc.
- If a positioning aid has been provided with the chair then it should be determined as part of the risk assessment if it needs to be utilised during potering.
- Before portering, bring the back of the chair to its most upright position; this will position the push handle more appropriately and make the chair easier to manoeuvre.
- Due to the EasySecure attachment, the chair can be manoeuvred with the block leg rest attached. If the block leg rest is to be detached for portering then the optional sliding footplate should be provided and utilised to protect the feet.

The chair should be kept from significant thresholds, steps, or rough and uneven ground. Level indoor surfaces and outdoor surfaces such as asphalt and large paving slabs are suitable for portering users in the chair (chairs should not be used outdoors in wet weather). The chair should not be used to porter users on slopes or inclines.

3. Linked Seat and Back Recline

- The seat and back are linked and recline together with the use of one lever.
- Recline angle is controlled with the lever on the right-hand side of the push handle at the back of the chair.
- To adjust the angle of recline, squeeze the lever and recline the chair to the desired angle. Release the lever to lock the chair at the desired angle.

Recline function should be risk assessed and professional guidance followed - see Disclaimer.

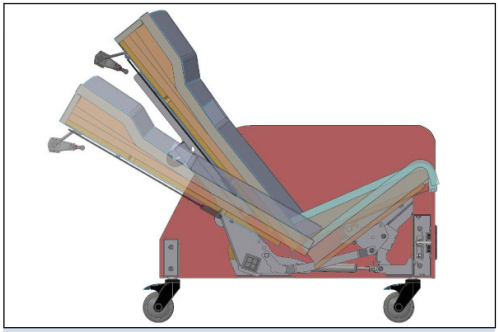


Recline function can be adjusted by squeezing the right-hand side lever on the push handle.

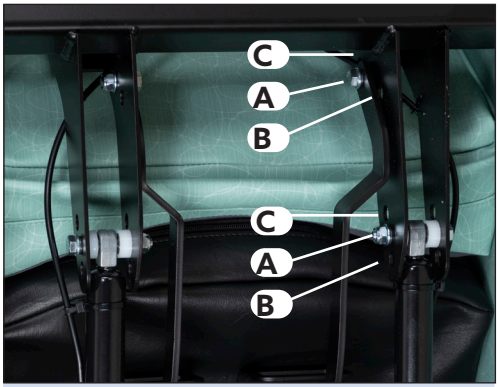
4. Back Angle Setting

- To adjust the setting of the back angle, loosen and remove four sets of nuts and bolts located on the gas spring and seat link bars underneath the chair on the back frame, and move to the desired holes (position A is selected in the image).
  A = Standard Factory Setting (from vertical): 120° to 150°
  B = Optional Setting (from vertical): 110° to 140°
  C = Optional Setting (from vertical): 130° to 160°
- Depending on the back angle setting that is selected, there are three hip angle ranges:
  A = 100°-115°
  B = 90°-105°
  C = 110°-125°
- Seat angle adjusts from a starting position of 20° from horizontal through to 35° when the recline function is fully utilised.
- In the simplest of terms, as back recline moves through 30° of full range, the hip angle moves through 15° of range.

It is recommended that the back angle setting is only changed by CareFlex or a qualified technician on the recommendation of a Health & Social Care Professional.



Inside side view of the linked seat and back recline function.



Position A is the standard factory setting.

5. Block Leg Rest
Patent Published GB 2617837A

- The block leg rest can be used with AlphaCare to support and elevate the user's legs.
- It consists of a solid block that can reduce the risk of injury by preventing users from trapping their lower limbs under the chair seat.
- The leg rest incorporates Reflexion® foam in the top surface for pressure management.
- It utilises the EasySecure system for locking in place.
- The leg rest block has two locking castor brakes found at the front.
- To attach the block leg rest, unlock the left-hand side lever by pressing the red button and returning it to its normal position.
- Slide the engagement pins on the block leg rest into the chair's receiver sockets until the block leg rest automatically locks and secures in place.
- Slowly release the lever as far as it will travel until the red locking button clicks and leaves the lever in a locked position.



The two engagement pins on the block leg rest securely insert into the receiver sockets on the chair.



Lever in a locked position.

If the leg rest block should not disengage for any reason, ensure the lever has been fully engaged by tightly squeezing the handle. Secondly, a slight lift from the front of the block whilst pulling away will allow the block to release.

A risk assessment will determine why and how the leg rest block is used safely and appropriately as part of the individual's management plan - see Disclaimer.



Tightly squeeze the lever to disengage the lock and safely move the leg rest block away from the chair.

6. Lever Adjustment

Leg Rest Lever Adjustment

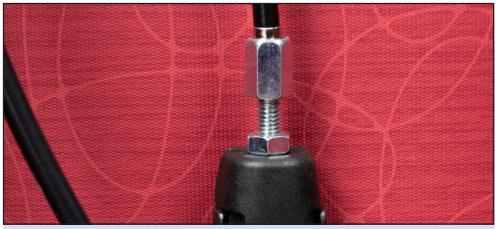
- If the Leg Rest lever starts to loosen, it can be adjusted to tighten it.
- First, ensure the cable is secured tightly to the handle. To tighten the cable, turn the silver nut a few times anticlockwise.



To tighten the cable, wind the nut anticlockwise by a few turns at a time.

Recline Lever Adjustment

- This chair's movement is actuated using cable mechanisms. Over time and with use, cables can stretch. We recommend regular inspection of the cables, and below is how to make adjustments if necessary.
- If the Recline lever starts to loosen, the adjustment is on the small black splitter on the back of the chair. To tighten the cable, wind the barrel nut anticlockwise a few turns at a time.



To tighten the cable, wind the barrel nut anticlockwise by a few turns at a time.

7. Sliding Footplate (Optional Accessory)

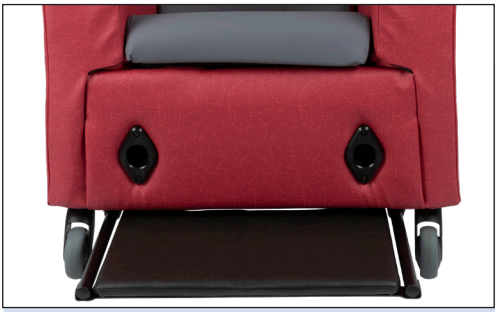
Footplates are important for the user's comfort, safety, postural stability and pressure distribution. An optional sliding footplate can be provided, which is especially important if the user will be manoeuvred around the environment.

- Reach under the front of the chair and pull the front of the footplate. Pull the footplate to its full extension for user comfort and support.
- When not in use, push the front of the footplate to retract it fully under the chair.

Do not attempt to stand on the footplate.

There are two width size options of footplate available:

1. Small - 340mm
2. Large - 490mm



Retract the footplate before any standing transfers into or out of the chair are completed.

If additional locking front castors have been prescribed for the chair, the small footplate must be selected. A large footplate does not provide enough side clearance for locking front castors.

The large footplate also reduces the amount of room available for transfer aids.



The small footplate allowing clearance of the two front optional locking castors.

8. Headrests (Optional Accessory)

The headrest should always support as much of the user's head as possible, and the height of the headrest should be set to provide comfortable support.

- Each headrest has a strap attached to its top edge. There are self-adhering hook and loop strips sewn to the strap.
- The straps wrap around the centre of the handlebar and the hook and loop strips adhere to each other to keep the headrest in place.
- It can be adjusted up and down by separating the hook and loop strips and letting out or gathering up the strap, before re-adhering the hook and look strips.



The straps on the headrest fit over the chair back and Velcro in place.

9. SecureFit Headrests (Optional Accessory)

If the user's involuntary movements cause the headrest to unposition, a secure headrest in contoured or pillow form can be selected for further head support.

- The fitment is the same as the other headrests, but there is an additional side strap to limit the headrest's sideways movement.
- Once the centre strap is attached around the handlebar using the Velcro, connect the side straps to the back and tighten them as required.



The additional black strap loops round the side and clips together at the back.

10. Groin Harness (Optional Accessory)

The groin harness is a positioning aid that can provide maximum pelvic control to help stabilise the position of the pelvis and limit sliding within the chair for safety.

- The harness consists of a padded cross shape and webbing straps. Two points of the padded cross shape are attached to the tri-glides at the back of the chair through the junction between the seat and back cushions.
- When seated in the chair, the two loose ends of the harness should be pulled up over the users thighs and attached to the straps at the rear of the chair.



Groin Harness

- The harness can be adjusted through the webbing straps.

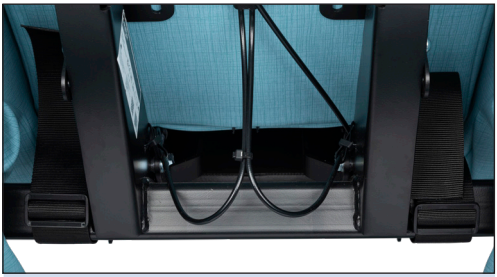
11. Padded Pelvic Belt (Optional Accessory)

Pelvic belt length is adjusted by the two part buckle and a tri-glide adjuster:

- To fasten buckle 'click' two halves together.
- To release buckle, press tabs on the sides of buckle and pull two halves apart.



Pelvic Belt



The groin harness and pelvic belt are adjusted through tri-glides on the webbing straps front and back.

12. Chest Harness (Optional Accessory)

A dynamic chest harness can provide anterior support and comfort whilst not restricting active positioning or function.

- If a chest harness is ordered with an AlphaCare Chair, the required clips will be fitted in position at the factory.
- An AlphaCare that is capable of being fitted with a Chest Harness will be fitted with four cliplock buckles (two at the top and two at the bottom).



If a chest harness is required to be retrofitted then suitable instructions will be provided with the harness.

Always ensure belts and harnesses are risk assessed, positioned correctly and comfortably, and not interfering with in-situ medical devices - see Disclaimer at the end of this user guide.



Feed the straps of the chest harness through each cliplock to the desired length and close each clip lock to secure.

Care & Maintenance

- When the chair is delivered and every time it is used, check the chair over for signs of damage or excessive wear.
- If the chair shows signs of excessive wear, damage or incorrect performance, please take it out of service immediately and contact CareFlex or the local CareFlex Distributor.
- If the user is experiencing severe discomfort, do not use the chair. Take it out of service immediately and contact CareFlex or the local CareFlex Distributor.
- The AlphaCare is upholstered in high quality material which is waterproof and fire retardant. However, do not store or use the chair in damp or wet areas.
- Do not attempt to carry out any structural maintenance or adjustment of the AlphaCare or its accessories without consulting CareFlex or the local CareFlex Distributor.
- Details of cover material care and maintenance can be found in the Fabric Guide. Both are available in hard copy on request from CareFlex, or are free to download at www.careflex.co.uk.
- Look after the AlphaCare and it will provide years of trouble-free service.
- The AlphaCare is also covered by CareFlex Two Year Warranty. Please view our terms and conditions for full details.

Important Safety Information

- All those using, providing, setting-up or adjusting the AlphaCare chair should take the time to familiarise themselves with all aspects of the chair, including its functions and accessories, before using the chair.
- Do not 'ride' on the push handles or subject them to excessive loads.
- Do not sit on the leg rest or subject it to excessive loads.
- Do not attempt to stand on the footplate.
- Do not tip the chair backwards to ascend steps or overcome thresholds, especially if a user is sat in the chair.
- Always ensure that there are no obstructions under the chair and that there is plenty of space around the chair before using the recline function.
- Always apply at least two brakes when the user transfers to or from the chair.
- Always try to avoid storing or using the chair in areas where it may obstruct exits or passageways.
- The AlphaCare must never be used in motor vehicles for user transportation.

Disclaimers
The seat and back recline function should always be prescribed responsibly, ensuring that it is safe and appropriate for the user following a comprehensive assessment of posture and risk, with advice sought from the multi-disciplinary team where indicated. In some cases this function will be contra-indicated, and could also increase shear and friction forces.

An individual's ability to tolerate a leg rest will be dependent on their hamstrings muscles and knee range of movement; inappropriate elevation of the lower limbs can cause pain, a posterior pelvic tilt, and sliding down the chair increasing shear and friction forces.

All belts and harnesses (positioning aids) must be prescribed, implemented and monitored responsibly following a comprehensive risk assessment. Please see the following for further information:
- British Standard (BS) (2019) *8625:2019 Selection, placement and fixation of flexible postural support devices in seating* London: BSI
- International Organization for Standardization (ISO) (2024) *ISO/TS 16840-15:2024 Wheelchair seating Part 15: Selection, placement and fixation of flexible postural support devices in seating* [Online] www.iso.org/standard/80064.html
- Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency (MHRA) (2015) *MDA/2015/018 All posture or safety belts fitted to supportive seating, wheelchairs, hoists and bathroom equipment* London: MHRA

Visit the AlphaCare web page to view the resources available, including the How-To Video Playlist.

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