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The evidence used in the preparation of this leaflet is available on request. Please email: patient.information@salisbury.nhs.uk if you would like a reference list.

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The Range of **Matrx Vi** Cushions *(page 1 of 4)*

Why do I need a **Matrx Vi** cushion?

Your injury means that you may easily develop pressure marks and ulcers. You have been assessed as needing a specialist cushion to reduce the chance of this happening.

Your **Matrx Vi** cushion

There are different types of **Matrx Vi** cushions available, all are all similar in construction.

The Spinal Centre uses the following cushions from the **Matrx Vi** Range:

- The **Matrx Vi**
- The **Matrx Vi** heavy duty

The cushion is made from three different types of moulded foam, which are lightweight and durable.

The **Matrx Vi** cushion range gives stability and good weight distribution whilst helping overall positioning and support.

The **Matrx Vi** cushion is made up of three main parts:

- an outer cover for protection and handling of the cushion.
- a waterproof inner cover underneath (to protect the foam cushion).
- a moulded cushion with an integrated visco foam insert.



Due to variations in the range we do not advise you to use a different type of **Matrx Vi** cushion until you have been assessed for its use. Please contact the staff at the Pressure Clinic who will be able to help.

Accessories such as a Pelvic Obliquity kit or a Seat Rigidiser (SR) may also be used with all types of **Matrx Vi** cushion.

Pressure Clinic
 **01722 429291**

Daily checks

The Matrx Vi cushion needs minimal maintenance.

If someone else is doing this for you, they will need you to tell them how to do it and make sure that they do it correctly.

Always hold the cushion by the base or by the handle.

Regularly check for loss of shape, wear and compression (this will help to provide sufficient padding under your bottom and prevent the cushion "bottoming out").

If a seat rigidiser is used, this must be placed on the underside of the cushion, before putting on the outer cover.

The seat rigidiser is designed to prolong the life-span of the cushion and your overall posture by minimising the sagging of the foam base when the cushion is used on foldable wheelchair bases. This must be removed if used on a flat base as it can increase the interface pressure to your seating bones, causing skin damage or instability.

Once you have finished checking or cleaning the cushion, you will need to put it back together carefully.

Using the cushion

The cushion has been designed to be used with the outer cover for maximum efficiency and may be used without the cover temporary, such as when the cover is in the wash, but only if the inner cover is used.

The outer cover and the inner cover are designed to protect the foam against moisture.

Do not place an alternative cover on the cushion such as a pillowcase or a towel, as this will affect the efficiency of the cushion, and can cause skin marking.

It is at the discretion of your cushion supplier if a spare outer cover is provided.

If any of the protective covers become damaged, they must be replaced. Should this happen you must contact your wheelchair service or your cushion supplier immediately.

Do not store items under or to the side of your cushion as this could create a higher seating pressure, and lead to pressure marks or ulcers. Sharp objects may puncture and damage the protective covers.

Do not leave your cushion close to a naked flame or exposed to extremes of temperatures.

Do not bend the cushion as this will damage the foam properties.

The cushion has a raised contoured shape at the front. The outer cover has a handle at the front, a zipper at the back and descriptive labels on the side to enable correct positioning before mobilising.

Make sure that the cushion is not placed the wrong way round (not back to front or upside down) inside any of the protective covers. Placing the complete assembled cushion the wrong way round can cause significant skin damage.

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A Pelvic Obliquity kit can be attached by adhesive strips underneath the foam cushion. The inner cover must be used to contain the insert.

The maximum user weight of these cushion vary depending on type and size:

- The Matrx Vi 136kg / 299.8lbs
- The Matrx Vi Heavy Duty 227kg / 599.7lbs

Your skin can be badly damaged if the cushion is not used properly.

Cleaning your cushion

Washing instructions can be found on the label of the outer cover. Ensure the zipper is closed before cleaning.

Never use bleach, alcohol products or oil based lotions to clean any parts of your cushion, as they can damage the cushion.

Pressure relief

You may need to carry out pressure relief on this cushion. If you are not sure whether you need to do this, please contact the Pressure Clinic.

Pressure relief helps to keep the blood flowing in your seating area. This is necessary for healthy skin and helps prevent ulcers forming.

Pressure is relieved when the bony parts of your bottom are lifted clear from the cushion.

To do this you can lift your bottom off the seat or lean side to side or forward and then back.

If possible relieve the pressure every 20 minutes for 20 seconds.

The outer cover must be machine washed on 40°C wash cycle programme and tumble dried on a cool setting. This helps to maintain the water repellent and fire retardant properties of the cushion cover, while preventing shrinkage.

The wipeable inner cover can be cleaned with a damp cloth and normal household detergent and wiped dry. The inner cover should not be removed for cleaning.

All types of replacement covers are available from your wheelchair service or the supplier of your cushion.

The foam base can be wiped cleaned with a damp cloth and household detergent or soap.

Do not immerse the foam cushion (with or without protective covers) into water.

Dry the cushion in open air. Do not place it in direct sunlight or in front of fires, radiators or heaters.

If the foam becomes soiled due to incontinence it must be replaced as the foam is absorbent and it cannot be cleaned. Contact your wheelchair services or cushion provider for a replacement.

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Skin

You should check your skin for any damage before getting into your wheelchair and on going back to bed. When in bed, if you have any red or pink marks on your skin, you will need to relieve pressure from the area until the mark has completely faded. If the mark is still there after 30 minutes, please contact the Pressure Clinic for advice.

New cushions are firmer than older ones, so you need to check you skin as often as possible when you get a new one.

Life expectancy of the cushion and how to replace it

The Matrx Vi cushion should last between 24 – 36 months, but this can vary depending on your weight and how active you are. The cushion is guaranteed for 2 years from manufacturing defects.

To repair or replace your cushion, contact your local wheelchair service or supplier. If you are unsure of their address, please contact the staff at the pressure clinic who will be able to help.

How can the Pressure Clinic help?

We are available by telephone for advice, and you will also attend the Pressure Clinic during your Outpatient appointment to see your Consultant. Additional appointments can also be made for you to be seen in the Pressure Clinic should you so wish.

We can be contacted for addresses and telephone numbers of local wheelchair services, sales representatives for cushions, and for advice on any aspect of your pressure area care.

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Please remember that this hand-out is only to be used as a guide and that each person needs to be individually assessed for a cushion. Once a cushion is prescribed it does not reduce the need for skin checking and continued assessment.