This decision tree is meant to guide the clinical decision-making process. It is not intended to replace competent evaluation. When Digital Access Methods are indicated, please refer to the Non-Joystick Driving Methods Decision Making Tree.
Power Wheelchair Joystick Decision Making Tree

Standard Joystick considerations

Can the Standard Joystick be mounted at the end of the armpad?

Yes
- Explore Standard Mounting
- Does the client need to move the mount independently?
  - Explore Power Swing Away Mount

No
- Explore Alternative Placements
- Change Joystick Angle to match client movement
  - To accommodate forearm pronation
  - To accommodate movement across body

Does the client have difficulty using a joystick by the hand during cold conditions?
- Explore a hand warmer

Does the client have difficulty using a standard joystick handle?
- Explore alternative handles

Does the client have poor grasp?
- Explore Goal Post or Dome shaped handle
- Explore Mushroom Joystick
**Power Wheelchair Joystick Decision Making Tree**

**Mini Proportional Joysticks Mounted by chin**

- **Will the client use a mini joystick by the chin?**
  - **Yes**
    - Mini Proportional Joystick, approx. 50g
    - *These joysticks require less force than a standard or compact joystick, reducing the risk of repetitive stress injury.*
  - **No**
    - **Will the client use the mini joystick by the finger or thumb?**
      - *These joysticks have more force than other mini joysticks, which is more appropriate for use at the chin*

- **Are secretions an issue?**
  - Sealed Mini Proportional Joystick

- **Choose a mount**
  - **Swing away mount**
    - *Stays in position relative to the wheelchair*
    - **Does the client need to move the mount independently?**
      - **Power swing away mount**
  - **Bib or harness mount**
    - *Stays in position relative to the client*

*See page 4*
Will the client use a mini joystick by the finger or thumb?

Yes

Is minimal force required?

Yes

Mini Proportional Joystick, approx. 10g

No

The mini joystick will typically be placed at the chin

No

Mounting

Ensure that the forearm, wrist and hand are well supported

Armtrough or tray

Ensure the joystick is mounted in the optimal position

Handpad

Midline and/or swing away mount, as needed

Yes

No

Mini Proportional Joystick, approx. 50g
Power Wheelchair Joystick Decision Making Tree

Is programming required?

Yes

Can the client move the joystick in all 4 primary directions?

Yes

Change Axes through PWC electronics, Mo-Vis, or iDrive

Consider 3 Direction if client cannot move in one primary direction

Consider using a switch to represent one or more directions in combination with joystick movement

No

No

Can the client move the joystick fully in all directions?

Yes

Change joystick throw through PWC electronics, Mo-Vis, or iDrive

Use caution, throw is already reduced on mini proportional joysticks

No

Consider PMP 9 pin version rather than iDrive version (if using PMP mini)

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