



**Spinal Seating Professional Development Project
Assessment Form RD6.1: Handy Hints for Checking Commonly Used Cushions**

Handy tips for finding key bony landmarks

ROHO® cushions –

Links ROHO® cushion user guide:

- ROHO Select Range: http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/155275/useroho3.pdf
- ROHO Enhancer: http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/155269/useroho2.pdf

Check air inflation or bottoming out when the client **on** the cushion.

When client is **off** the cushion:

- Check for cell separation (neoprene base layer detaching from the top layer resulting bunch of ROHO® cells forming one)
- Check for number of puncture patches and their locations
- Check for stickiness/ friction between cell walls which may indicate reduction of neoprene integrity

Jay® cushions-

Link Jay® cushion user guide:

http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/155269/useroho2.pdf

Jay® Fluid pads decrease in viscosity and increase conformity to body shape as they warm up to the body heat. Check for bottoming out after the client has been on it for at least 20 minutes.

- Check for bottoming out by lifting the client **off** the cushion without disturbing the fluid then feeling around the IT area to see if the client is sitting directly on the base.
- Check if the fluid has hardened over time.
- Check for fluid pad leakage (fine white powder as the fluid dries up).
- Check if the Velcro strips are holding the fluid pad and accessories onto the Jay® base.
- When assessment of client off the cushion is not feasible, some practitioners have adapted the assessment by sliding the hand under the client's ITs and GTs wearing a slippery glove, to locate bony prominence and to check for bottoming out while the client is **on** the cushion.

Contour foam cushion / Perth cushion –

Link to Contour foam cushion user guide:

http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/155257/usefoam.pdf

- Custom-made foam cut-out cushion have a shelf life of approximately 6-12 months depending on the user.
- Foam deteriorates faster with moisture; look for mould, and stains on the foam.
- If it is difficult to objectively assess "bottoming –out", a referral to seating service may be indicated for the custom made cushions.