

# User Instructions

Omega User Information  
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## Contents

- 1 Introduction to the Omega chair
- 2 Omega Product Information
- 2 Service and Maintenance Indicator
- 2 Guidelines for Best Practice
- 3 The User Instructions
- 3 Questions and Concerns

## General Operation of the Omega:

- 3 Back height adjustment
- 4 Back and seat angle recline
- 4 Stretching of the cable
- 5 Seat Module
- 5 Wheels
- 6 Legrest
- 7 Weighted Universal Headrest
- 7 Loose covers
- 7 Lap-belt
- 8 Headcap
- 7 Sliding Footrest
- 8 Care and Maintenance
- 8 Potential risks, cautions and warnings
- 9 Helpline



## Introduction to the Omega Chair

### What is the Omega?

The purpose of the Omega is to provide a robust, durable chair that can withstand demanding and severe movements yet provide secure, comfortable seating with postural support and pressure relieving characteristics for those seated for long periods.

## Why is there a need for this type of chair?

The Omega was originally designed for those with Huntington's Disease and other neurological conditions. Over time the Omega has become a recognised and valued seating system for many other caring environments.

The ability of a seated person to function efficiently and perform activities depends on their ability to adopt the appropriate posture. All activity is posture dependent. If a person cannot move or has problems adjusting their posture, it may be necessary to use seating to try to provide externally what is limited internally.

Comfort and security underpins the Omega aiming to provide a robust, durable chair that can withstand demanding and severe movements yet provide a safe and relaxed seated position.

The Omega allows a good seated position for relaxing as well as for activities such as eating. The unique sculpted, bucket style back and seat offers more stability for the user whilst enhancing midline positioning and increasing comfort.



## Who should consider using the Omega?

The Omega is for those with Huntington's disease and other neurological conditions as well as for more general nursing care. The Omega can be used within a variety of different environments including domestic homes, hospitals, hospices and nursing homes.

## Service and Maintenance Indicator

A service and maintenance indicator is located on the push handle of the chair.

This indicator will flash after 11 months of use to advise that the chair should be serviced.

Annual servicing of the chair will extend the warranty of the chair to 5 years if maintained from new and increase the chair's lifespan.

The annual maintenance service is chargeable per chair. Additional components and parts will be quoted and charged separately, if required.

## Omega Product Information

### Pressure Relieving Seat Options

- Intelli-Gel Seat Module
- Transflo Gel Seat Module
- Reflexion™ Foam Seat Module

### Accessories

- Weighted Universal Headrest
- Cushioned Headrest
- Sliding footrest
- Washable loose covers
- Headcap
- Lap-Belt
- Pelvic Positioners

### Options

- Three different seat widths (380mm/430mm/510mm)
- Three different seat lengths (430mm/470mm/500mm)

### Weight Limit

150kg/25.5 stone

## Guidelines for Best Practice

To ensure good practice when considering purchasing an Omega chair and effective use post purchase we advise that the following guidelines are considered:

1. Seek advice and input from a qualified therapist/professional and/or Kirton representative/distributor at the initial prescription of the chair.
2. If unsure when ordering the chair and any accessories contact either the therapist involved or your Kirton representative or distributor or our Customer Services Team on **Freephone 0800 212709 or +44 (0) 1440 705352** to discuss further.
3. It is recommended that following receipt of the chair all staff members that will be supervising the user(s) should be trained in adjusting the chair to ensure it is adjusted safely and correct positioning is maintained for the benefit of the user.
4. Users of the Omega should be supervised and checked regularly to ensure their most appropriate position is maintained in the chair.

## The User Instructions

The purpose of the following user instructions is to provide a guide on how to utilise, adjust and maintain the Omega chair.

These instructions should be read by all those involved with the supervision of the user and/or the care of the chair before use.

The Omega **must** be adjusted in terms of back height for each individual user and back angle recline to ensure safe and comfortable use.

Please retain these instructions with the Care and Maintenance card enclosed for future reference.

## Questions and Concerns

Should you experience any difficulties or have any concerns regarding the initial purchase or subsequently adjusting the Omega chair or have any concerns regarding its use or operation then immediately contact either your Kirton representative, distributor or our Customer Services Team on **Freephone 0800 212709 or +44 (0) 1440 705352**, they will be delighted to help you.

## General Operation of the Omega

It is recommended that the chair is adjusted to accommodate each user's specific requirements in terms of back height and back/seat angle recline.

Whilst adjusting the back/seat angle recline is easily made with the user in the chair the back height adjustment must be made when the chair is unoccupied.

## Back Height Adjustment

The Omega has two back height settings, the high setting provides a back height of 800mm and the low setting provides a back height of 740mm.

- To either increase or decrease the back height of the chair, ensure the user is not in the chair.
- Locate on the rear of the back module the fixing screws. The top two screws should be unscrewed completely and retained whilst the bottom two screws should be loosened to enable the back to move up or down, but not allow the back to fall completely from the chair.
- Move the back module to the desired height and ensure all the screws are replaced securely.

**Always check to ensure the back module is not loose before re-seating the user.**



## Back and Seat Angle Recline

The back and seat angle can be altered by utilising the gas action adjustment mechanism. This mechanism is located on the right hand side of the push handle at the rear of the chair.



The linked back and seat recline enables the seat angle to increase as the back angle reclines to ensure an optimum seated position.

- To effect the recline of the back and seat modules, squeeze the gas action lever towards the push handle and push downwards on the push handle until the desired position is achieved.

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- To return the back to a more upright position, squeeze the gas action lever towards the push handle and gently guide the back to the desired position.

**Always remember to check the positioning of the user regularly to ensure an appropriate position is maintained.**

## Stretching of the cable

After significant usage the gas action may become less effective and the lever loose when squeezing indicating that the cable has stretched.

- To tighten the cable loosen the small screw on the top of the lever and with pliers pull the visible cable through the lever slightly and retighten the screw.

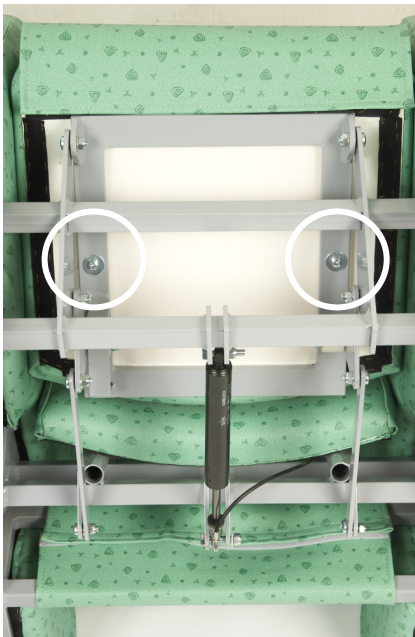
## Seat Module

### Tools required:

Cross headed screwdriver

The seat module in the Omega is fixed securely. However, should an alternative seat be required or cleaning be necessary, the seat module can be removed.

- To remove the seat module, turn the chair over onto its side so the underside of the chair is visible. Care should be taken when attempting to lift or turn the chair not to strain or trap fingers as well as damaging the chair. It is advised that at least two people undertake this task.



- Once the underneath of the chair is visible, locate two cross-headed screws on the underside of the seat module and unscrew. The seat module will gradually become loose and once the screws are fully removed the seat can be removed entirely.

- To replace the seat module, place the module to align the screw holes with the metal holes in the framework and ensure the screws are tightened securely. Always double check that the screws are secure and there is no movement in the seat module before re-seating the user.

## Wheels

Omega chairs are fitted with 100mm wheels on both the chair and the legrest. At the rear of the chair the back two wheels are braked and at the front of the legrest the front two wheels are braked.

- To apply the brakes, press down on the front edge of the ridged pad on each wheel. The brakes should be applied during all transfer operations.



- To unlock the brakes, push down on the top edge of the ridged pad until it is level with the rest of the wheel.



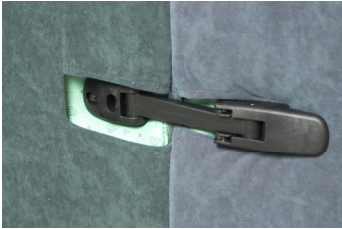
- Always check that wheels are not locked before moving the chair.



## Legrest

The legrest is a foam and wood construction to which the wheels have been accurately aligned. The rear wheels on the legrest have been inset to provide improved mobility and manoeuvrability.

The legrest is fixed to the chair by strong, rubber buckle latches to ensure the legrest maintains a firm fixing to the chair even under extreme duress.



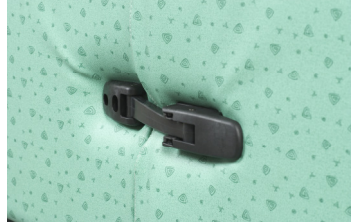
- To fix the legrest buckle latches to the chair, the plastic buckle fastener on the legrest strap should be pulled over the bracket fixing located on the chair.



- The buckle latches should slot over the bracket fixing and the buckle should be pushed forwards until it snaps shut against the chair. This should provide a secure fixing of the legrest to the chair.



- To release the legrest from the chair, the buckle fastener should be lifted open and the tension clasp will spring open releasing the legrest. This can be carried out on either side of the chair or indeed on both sides.



## Reduced tension in the legrest fixing

After a period of time and use the legrest may become slack against the chair where the foam has become depressed and this may cause the legrest to be loose against the chair.

- The foam will compact over time and the legrest fitting will become loose against the chair; moving the legrest latches will assist closeness of the fit.
- The tension of legrest buckle latches can be increased to ensure a snug fit of the legrest to the chair by moving the bracket fixing over to the second set of holes.
- Ensure that the fixing point is securely tightened and cannot be worked loose.
- This should be completed on both sides of the chair arms for the tension to be equal and effective.



## Weighted Universal Headrest

The Weighted Universal Headrest can be attached to the Omega chair using a Velcro strap.

It is available in either the chair's upholstery fabric, Dartex fabric or the unique Spacer fabric.

### Spacer Fabric

Integral to the Universal headrest in Spacer Fabric is the antimicrobial and anti dust-mite treatment built into the headrest at the time of manufacture. The additive provides protection against fungi, bacteria and dust-mites as well as providing odour prevention and hygienic freshness importantly, it also protects against MRSA.

### Benefits of Spacer Fabric:

- Optimum temperature
- Outstanding air permeability
- Excellent drainage of moisture
- Passive ventilation
- Machine washable
- Positively affects the pressure relieving qualities of the foam
- 100% recyclable

## Headcap (accessory)

The headcap is a protective covering that slides over the top of the chair to cover the headrest area in order to protect the upholstery from excessive wear and tear. The headcap should be pulled down fully over the top of the chair to avoid slipping or sliding.

## Loose Covers (accessory)

The Omega can be fitted with washable loose covers for the back and seat modules, arms and legrest.

At the time of manufacture all Omega chairs have Velcro fitted to the underside of both the chair and legrest to enable retrospective fitting of loose covers.

All loose covers fit snugly to the chair and need to be pulled firmly over their respective modules and attached on the underside with the Velcro. The left and right arms are recognisable due to the opening for the legrest attachment and therefore only fit their respective sides.

## Lapbelt (accessory)

The Lapbelt helps to position the user in the back of the chair. Ideally the fixings for the Lapbelt itself will be fitted at time of manufacture however, can be fitted retrospectively by a trained representative.

- To use the Lapbelt effectively, undo the buckle joining the two halves of the strap by depressing the button on the central console and place the straps over the arms or to the side of the seat before transferring the user into the chair.
- When the user is seated, bring the two sides of the buckle together and fasten.
- Adjust the strap by pulling on the plastic loop to give firm control but take care not to restrict user movement.

**NOTE: Please refer to Lap-Belt User Instructions enclosed for further information.**

## Sliding Footrest (accessory)

The sliding footrest is designed to support the user's feet whilst the chair is occupied.

- To **use**, pull the footrest forward fully in a trombone effect.

### To retract:

- **Slide** the footrest back fully, before transferring to or from the chair.

**Do not stand on the Sliding Footrest.**

**Always use the Sliding Footrest to support the users feet during transit.**



## Care and Maintenance

For recommended care, cleaning and maintenance, please refer also to the care and maintenance guidelines enclosed with your chair and the care label fixed to your chair.

- Wipe down framework with soapy water and a soft cloth.
- Check castors regularly for build up of fluff and dirt particles
- Cleaning with scouring pads is not advised.

## Helpline

Should you have any concerns either pre or post purchase of the chair contact our Customer Services Team on **Freephone 0800 212709** or from outside the UK **+44 (0) 1440 705352** to discuss further. Alternatively, if you purchased your chair from a Kirton distributor in the first instance please contact your point of reference there.

If your call concerns a specific seating product or item of furniture please have ready your sales order number before you telephone. This can be located at the base of each chair and helps us identify your details and deal with your enquiry efficiently.



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## Potential Risks, Cautions and Warnings

- The user is at risk if the Omega is not specified and adjusted to their particular requirements.
- **Do not** allow the legrest to be used as a seat, nor allow the chair to be pushed along by it. Damage or injury could result to the chair or legrest, the user or the person sitting on the legrest or pushing the chair.
- **Do not** try moving the chair without first ensuring that all wheels are unlocked.
- **Do not** sit on the arms as this can cause damage to the covering and could make the stability of the chair unsafe.
- Users should be **regularly** checked and supervised when in the chair to mitigate the user moving or sliding into an inappropriate position.
- Users and carers should take care not to injure themselves on the legrest attachment catches during entry or exit of the chair as they will protrude from the legrest when not affixed to the chair. The catches are however, manufactured from rubber and will bend on impact.
- Users and carers should take care not to trap fingers down either the side of the chair or between the back and the seat module. Similarly, caution must be observed not to trap hands between the legrest and the chair when securing the legrest to the chair.
- If using any of the accessories such as a Pelvic Positioner or Lap-belt, the user should be regularly checked and supervised to ensure correct positioning is maintained.