

Determining Which U-Step Neuro Walker to Recommend

Standard U-Step Neuro Walker

- In general, the **go to version should be the Standard U-Step Neuro Walker** with the variations (Platform, Press Down) being recommended when various factors preclude them from using the standard version.

Note: The Standard U-Step Neuro Walker can be converted to a Platform or Press Down version by switching out the upper section (if the Platform or Press Down U-Step model was not originally ordered).

Platform U-Step Neuro Walker (primarily for stroke or brain injury)

- **Unable to use an arm** – This is most common with a stroke, where a person has an arm that cannot be used. The platform allows the person to place this arm into the platform and they operate the braking system with their other hand.
- **Weak trunk (mid-section)** – Some neurological conditions can leave a person with a weak mid-section/trunk (i.e., advanced MS or ALS). The platform version helps them stand up straight and is easier for them to maintain their balance.
- **Unable to use standard handlebars effectively** – With people who have had brain injury, standard handlebars are sometimes difficult to use, or their arms are not strong enough to support themselves with standard handlebars.
- **Severely stooped over** – The standard handlebars will help most people stand up straight, but not everyone. In those cases, the Platform version could be beneficial.

Press Down U-Step Neuro Walker

- **Difficulty in squeezing a hand brake** – If a person has trouble squeezing either the left or right handbrake, the **Press Down** version should be considered, with the press down handle mounted on the person's weak side. Most commonly, having a difficulty squeezing a hand brake is due to hand weakness related to a neurological condition (i.e., common in Huntington's and ALS) or an arthritic condition.
- **Patients having dementia** – People with severe dementia who are unable to figure out how to operate a standard hand brake are good candidates of the **Press Down** version.
 - Many people with advanced Parkinson's Disease have severe dementia,
 - If the person has LBD (Lewy Bodies Disease) one can assume they have dementia,
 - People with PSP (Progressive Supra-nuclear palsy) tend to have dementia, too.
- **Braking system is not critical, just the stability of the U-Step Neuro Walker** – There are people who have a severe balance issues and require a U-Step Neuro Walker to keep them from falling. However, the braking system may not be necessary for them. For these individuals, the Press Down version is an option versus the Standard version.