

Air Travel Checklist After SCI

For more information:
Craig Nurse Advice Line
1-800-247-0257

Reservations

- Book a flight online or by phone. Choose a flight time opposite your personal cares.
- Request assistance as needed and an aisle chair for transferring to your seat.

Check In

- Confirm seat assignment or request a change.
- Remind staff of your boarding needs like an aisle chair, moveable armrest, and pre-board privileges.
- Make a request additional assistance for someone to transport you or carry baggage.

Security

- When traveling with family or friends, allow them to send your belongings through the x-ray.
- When traveling alone, make sure to keep eyes on your belongings.
- Wheelchair users, unable to walk thru x-ray, will receive a manual pat down and have their chairs inspected.
- Comply with TSA, but do not perform any task which is unsafe. Alert them to any sensitive areas or devices.

At the Gate

- Check in again at gate and remind them about the aisle chair or your specific needs to board the plane.
- Obtain a "gate check" tag which alerts the baggage handler to bring your chair up.
- Sit near door to jet way and speak with gate attendant about pre-boarding time.
- Use the restroom just before pre-boarding begins.

Boarding the Plane

- Travel in your wheelchair down the jet way to aircraft door.
- Lock the brakes and set up a safe transfer to the aisle chair.
- Communicate with the staff that operates the aisle chair. Only you understand your body.

Onboard

- Perform weight shifts and drink plenty of water on the plane.
- Prepare for bathroom cares from your seat. The lavatory is usually not wheelchair accessible.
- Upon arrival, remind the flight staff about your wheelchair coming up from the luggage hold.
- You will be the last passenger off the aircraft. Communicate with flight staff about any connecting flights.

Leaving Airport

- Report any damage to your wheelchair at your airline's customer service counter before you leave airport.
- Reserve or research ground transportation that will accommodate your manual or power wheelchair.