Accessibility Improvement Checklist

One in five people in Ohio report having some form of disability. Since people with disability represent such large portion of the population that we serve, it is important that primary care services are accessible to everyone. Below are recommendations based on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to increase the accessibility of clinical spaces for Primary Care Facilities for people with disabilities.

**Approach and Entrance to Facility:**

1. At least one van accessible parking space should be available in the parking lot. The parking spot should have a van accessible sign placed at least 60 inches above the ground.
   - Cost: $20.00 for Accessibility Sign and Placard ($10.00 each)
   - Difficulty: Easy
   - Equipment: Adjustable wrench to install sign at correct height.

2. There should be at least 60 inches of space between the ground and the bottom of each accessible parking sign (most are too low and do not meet ADA standards)
   - Cost: $0.00
   - Difficulty: Very Easy
   - Equipment: Adjustable wrench to install sign at correct height.

3. Ensure that all doors take at least 5 seconds to close from an open position of 90 degrees to a position of 12 degrees from the door latch*
   - Cost: $0.00
   - Difficulty: Easy
   - Equipment: Flat head or Phillips screw driver

*To adjust the swing or latch speed, Turn screwdriver clockwise to reduce the speed, counterclockwise to increase the speed. The set-screws are usually located on the end of the closer.
4. Secure the carpet down to the floor to minimize tripping hazards and the possibility of a wheelchair becoming stuck on the carpet flap.
   - Cost: $0.00
   - Difficulty: Very Easy
   - Equipment: None

5. Make sure that automatic door buttons are operational.
   - Cost: Varies – Ranges from $80.00 for individual part or up to $2,000.00 to install or replace entire system.
   - Difficulty: Moderately Difficult for Facility Manager to install.
   - Equipment: A full set of tools is needed to install a new system or to make significant repairs.

Access to Services:

1. Use raised text on all signage in the facility.
   - Cost: $50.00-$75.00 per sign
   - Difficulty: Easy
   - Equipment: None

2. Place Braille on all signage in the facility.
   - Cost: $50.00-$75.00 per sign
   - Difficulty: Easy
   - Equipment: Adhesive tape or screwdriver to mount sign

3. Move trashcans further away from the latch side of the door. There should be at least 18 inches of maneuvering clearance beyond the latch side of the door plus at least 60 inches of clear depth.
   - Cost: $0.00
   - Difficulty: Very Easy
   - Equipment: None
4. Do not place trashcans directly below light switches. There should be a clear floor space of at least 30 inches wide by at least 48 inches long for a forward or parallel approach to doors and switches.
   - Cost: $0.00
   - Difficulty: Very Easy
   - Equipment: None

5. Ensure that no less than 17 inches and no greater than 25 inches of the clear floor space extends under the accessible length of a counter or desk.
   - Cost: ~$800.00 for replacement desk
   - Difficulty: Moderate
   - Equipment: A full set of tools is needed to install

Access to Bathroom:

1. Ensure all doors require 5 lbs. of force or less to open.
   - Cost: $0.00
   - Difficulty: Moderate
   - Equipment: Flat head or Phillips screw driver

   *To adjust door pressure, lower the “back check” pressure of the door. Move the “shoe” further away from the hinge toward the latch side of the door to decrease the amount of pressure.

2. Move the coat hook so that it is no greater than 48 inches above the floor.
   - Cost: $0.00
   - Difficulty: Very Easy
   - Equipment: Screwdriver or plastic removable 3M Hook
3. There should be at least 12 inches of clearance between the grab bar and protruding objects above or below it.
   - Cost: $0.00
   - Difficulty: Easy
   - Equipment: Full set of tools

4. Toilet paper dispensers should allow for continuous paper flow. This means that the paper should roll over the top.
   - Cost: $0.00
   - Difficulty: Very Easy
   - Equipment: None

Access to Exam Tables:

1. Invest in at least one exam table with an automatic backrest that is capable of adjusting lower to the floor (for each wing) so that all patients can be accommodated.
   - Cost: $4,000.00-$5,000.00
   - Difficulty: Easy
   - Equipment: On-site delivery/installation

2. Invest in at least one exam table that is weight rated above 300 lbs. (for each wing) so that all patients can be accommodated.
   - Cost: $4,000.00-$5,000.00
   - Difficulty: Easy
   - Equipment: On-site delivery/installation
**Communication Concerns:**

1. Consider training or offering resources on person-first language and common tips for interacting with people with disabilities. The Ohio Disability and Health Program has resources for both quick tip sheets and more detailed trainings offered to health professionals and staff.
   - Cost: $0.00
   - Difficulty: Easy
   - Equipment: None

2. Consider having a process to obtain materials in alternative formats such as large print or braille if expecting patients who need it to access necessary information.
   - Cost: Varies based on needs
   - Difficulty: Easy
   - Equipment: Vendor to access alternative materials as needed

3. Also consider asking patients if they require any special accommodations for their visit while prior to their visit or while scheduling their next exam.
   - Cost: $0.00
   - Difficulty: Very Easy
   - Equipment: None

**Additional Access Concerns:**

1. Invest in a scale that can weigh wheelchair users who need to remain in their chair.
   a. Cost: $500.00-$1,500.00
   b. Difficulty: Easy
   c. Equipment: Onsite delivery/installation

2. Consider investing in devices and equipment to assist individuals with varying levels of mobility during examinations to better meet patient needs.