Establish a culture of routine for safer patient handling

Follow the Three "A's"

- ✓ ***Assess*** *your department needs, your staffing levels, and your patient population for mobility level and assistance required*
- ✓ ***Acquire*** *the right transfer devices for your specific point-of-care needs*
- ✓ ***Access*** *to transfer devices makes it easy for staff compliance*

Key Takeaway

***Always** use some type of transfer tool—something is better than nothing*

Choose the right mix of devices for safer handling

Lateral Transfer Aids

Device Types: Air-Assisted • Rollboards • Shifters • Transfer Sheets

Department Use: Emergency Room • Operating Room • Imaging Suite • Patient Room

Mobility Level: No to Limited Mobility / Dependent

Limited Mobility Transfer Aids

Device Types: Full-Body Lifts • Sit-to-Stand Lifts • Transfer Boards

Department Use: Operating Room • Patient Room • Bathroom

Mobility Level: No to Limited Mobility / Fully Dependent

Assisted Mobility Transfer Aids

Device Types: Sit-to-Stand Lifts • Transfer Boards • Gait Belts

Department Use: Patient Room • Inter-Departmental Transfer

Mobility Level: Limited to Assisted Mobility / Moderately to Minimally Dependent

Repositioning Aids

Device Types: Turners • Boosters • Air-Assisted

Department Use: Patient Room

Mobility Level: No to Limited Mobility / Fully Dependent

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A Guide to Patient Transfer
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Lateral Patient Transfer: Pull Force 101

Patient Weight Significantly affects the amount of friction created and, in turn, the pull force required—**weight must always be considered during transfers**

Friction The force that acts to resist sliding between two surfaces that are touching, which can slow down or stop the motion of the object and **increase as weight is added**

Don't underestimate RISK
Remember—more injuries occur when transferring ***average size patients!***

Pull Force The amount of force needed to move a patient laterally—**the greater the pull force required, the greater the risk for staff injury.**

Lessen injury risk: know what patient handling tools can handle

Air-Assisted

Lowest Pull Force/ Lowest Injury Risk

Maximum stability and comfort

- *Best overall option for manual lateral transfer*
- *Cushion of air significantly reduces friction, which drastically reduces the pull force required compared to other modalities*
- *Requires only 2 staff to assist*
- *For any size patient*

Rollboards

Lower Pull Force/ Lower Injury Risk

Safely bridges uneven gaps

- *Lightweight and easy to handle*
- *Friction-reducing mechanics and materials help reduce push/pull efforts*
- *Requires minimum of 2-3 staff*
- *Models available for average and bariatric size patients*
- *Hangable for easy access and storage*

Shifters

Medium Pull Force/ Medium Injury Risk

Transfer Sheets

Higher Pull Force/ Higher Injury Risk

Emergency situations only

- *Use only if other devices are unavailable*
- *Lower friction option than traditional linen draw sheets*
- *Often requires more than 4 staff*
- *Models available for average and bariatric size patients*
- *Stores anywhere for easy access*

Linen Draw Sheets

Highest Pull Force/ Highest Injury Risk

Not recommended

- *Only use with another assistive device to reduce injury risk*

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