Safe Patient Handling Algorithms

Algorithm #1. Transfer from Bed to Chair, Chair to Toilet, Chair to Chair, or Car to Chair

**Algorithm Flowchart**

1. **Ability to Bear Weight**
   - **Full** → Caregiver assistance not needed; stand by for safety as needed.
   - **Partial**
     - **Is patient cooperative?**
       - **Yes** → Stand and pivot technique using a transfer belt (1 caregiver) -or- stand-up lift (1 caregiver).
       - **No** → Use full body sling lift (ceiling or floor) and 2 caregivers.
     - **No** → Use full body sling lift (ceiling or floor) and 2 caregivers.

2. **Does patient have upper extremity strength?**
   - **Yes** → Seated transfer aid; may use transfer belt until the patient is proficient in completing transfer independently.
   - **No** → Use full body sling lift (ceiling or floor) and 2 caregivers.

**JDH Equipment to Use**:
- **Seated transfer aid**: slide board and gait belt.
- **Gait belts**
- **Ceiling lift** (in available areas) Liko
- **Floor lift**: Tempo or Opera (Arjo), Viking (Liko)
- **Sit to Stand Lift**: Sabina (Liko) or Sara (Arjo)

**Comments**:
- For seated transfer aid, must have chair with arms that recess or are removable.
- For full body sling lift, select a lift that was specifically designed to access a patient from the car, if the car is the starting or ending destination.
Algorithm #2: Lateral Transfer (Bed to Stretcher or Bed to Bed)

Can patient assist?

Yes

Full

Caregiver assistance not needed; stand by for safety as needed.

Partial

If patient is < 100 pounds:
2 caregivers and a lateral sliding aid

If patient is 100-200 pounds:
2 caregivers and a lateral sliding aid
or
Air-assisted lateral transfer device

If patient is > 200 pounds:
3 caregivers and a lateral sliding aid –
or
Air-assisted lateral transfer device

No

Use full body sling lift (ceiling or floor) with 2 caregivers.
or
Air-assisted lateral transfer device with 3 caregivers

UCHC equipment to use:
Friction reducing device/lateral sliding aid: slide sheets or full sized sliding board.
Air-Assisted lateral transfer device: Hovermatt
**ALGORITHM #3: PICKING A PATIENT UP FROM THE FLOOR**

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**Was the patient injured?**

- **Yes**: Proceed to next step.
- **No**: Do not move until injury is assessed by physician. Obtain backboard from ER if needed. Lift pt. on backboard onto stretcher with 6 persons.

**Is the injury minor?**

- **Yes**: Caregiver assistance not needed; stand by for safety as needed. Use gait belt to aid balance.
- **No**: Full body sling lift needed with 2 caregivers.

**Can patient assist?**

- **Yes, Fully**: Full body sling lift needed with 2 or more caregivers.
- **Partially or not at all**: Full body sling lift needed with 2 or more caregivers.

**Is patient cooperative?**

- **Yes**: Caregiver assistance not needed; stand by for safety as needed. Use gait belt to aid balance.
- **No**: Full body sling lift needed with 2 caregivers.

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**UCHC equipment to use:**

- Gait belts
- Full body sling lift: Ceiling lift (in available areas) or Floor lift: Tempo or Opera (Arjo), Viking (Liko)

**Comments:**

- Use full body sling lift that goes all the way to the floor.
ALGORITHM #4: REPOSITION IN BED, SIDE-TO-SIDE, UP IN BED

Ability to assist

Yes

Full

Full body sling lift or repositioning sheet or Air-Assisted lateral transfer device and 2 or more caregivers

Partial

Caregiver assistance not needed; patient may/may not use positioning aid

Encourage patient to assist using a positioning aid or cues.

If patient is < 200 pounds, use a friction reducing device and 2-3 caregivers

If patient is ≥ 200 pounds, use a friction reducing device, and at least 3 caregivers or repositioning sheet with ceiling lift

No

UCHC equipment to use:
Friction reducing device/lateral sliding aid: slide sheets, or full sized sliding board.
Air-Assisted lateral transfer device: Hovermatt
Full body sling lift or reposition sheet: Ceiling lift (in available areas)
or Floor lift: Tempo or Opera (Arjo), Viking (Liko)

Comments:
• This is not a one-person task - DO NOT PULL FROM HEAD OF BED. DO NOT ATTEMPT ALONE.
• When pulling a patient up in bed, the bed should be flat or in Trendelenberg position to aid in gravity, with the side rails down on the caregiver’s side of the bed.
• The height of bed should be appropriate for staff safety (at the elbows or top of pelvis)
• To move up in bed, if the patient can assist, ask the patient to flex the knees and push on the count of three.
• To turn or move side-to-side, if they have use of their hands and arms, ask patient to help pull themselves over using the side rails.
Algorithm #5: Transfer from Chair to Stretcher or Chair to Exam Table

Can patient bear weight?

Yes, fully

Caregiver assistance is not needed; stand by for safety as needed.

No

Use full body sling lift

Is the patient cooperative?

Yes

2 caregivers needed

No

3 or more caregivers needed

UCHC equipment to use:
Full body sling lift: Ceiling lift (in available areas) or Floor lift: Tempo or Opera (Arjo), Viking (Liko), Golvo

Comments:
- High/low exam tables and stretchers are ideal. Always put the table or stretcher in the lowest position for this patient movement.
- Use a stool to assist those who can bear weight and cooperate.
Algorithm #6: Reposition in Chair

Can patient assist?
- Yes
  - Full
    - Caregiver assistance not needed; stand by for safety and to direct patient as needed.
  - Partial
    - If patient has upper extremity strength in both arms, have patient lift up while caregiver pushes knees to reposition.
    - If patient lacks sensation or full sensorium, cues may be needed to remind patient to reposition.
- No
  - Does chair recline?
    - Yes
      - Recline chair and use a friction reducing device and 2 caregivers.
    - No
      - Is the patient cooperative?
        - Yes
          - Use full body sling lift or standing lift with 1 caregiver needed
            - Or
            - Have patient lean onto knees. Caregiver pushes back on their knees with second caregiver slightly pulling on ischiums from behind chair (requires training).
        - No
          - Use full body sling lift with 2 or more caregivers

UCHC equipment to use:
- Friction reducing device/lateral sliding aid: slide sheets
- Full body sling lift: Ceiling lift (in available areas):
  - or
- Floor lift: Tempo or Opera (Arjo) Viking (Liko)

Comments:
- Take full advantage of chair functions, e.g., chair that reclines.
- Do not pull patient by arms.
- Do not pull from behind the chair.
- Slide sheets may not remain under patient in chair.