

## SAFETY BASICS *Healthcare Series*



### Lateral Transfer

**Activity:** Resident Handling

**Description:** Draw sheet to be used in combination with friction-reducing devices such as slippery sheets, plastic bags, low friction mattress covers, or slide boards

**When to Use:** Transferring a partial or non-weight bearing resident between two horizontal surfaces such as a bed to a stretcher or gurney in supine position or when repositioning resident in bed.



**Points to Remember:** Two caregivers are required to perform this type of transfer. Additional assistance may be needed depending upon resident status, e.g., for heavier or non-cooperative residents. May not be suitable for bariatric residents. Use a good hand-hold by rolling up draw sheets or use other friction-reducing devices with handles such as slippery sheets.

Narrower slippery sheets with webbing handles positioned on the long edge of the sheet may be easier to use than wider sheets. Look for a combination of devices that will minimize risk of skin trauma. Ensure wheels on equipment are locked. Ensure transfer surfaces are at same level and at a height that allows caregivers to work at waist level to avoid extended reaches and back flexion. Count down and synchronize the transfer motion between caregivers.

Safety Basic Health Care Series Information is extracted directly from OSHA safety materials. For additional information consult [www.OSHA.gov](http://www.OSHA.gov)