

SAFETY BASICS *Healthcare Series*

Lateral Transfer in Sitting Position

Activity: Resident Handling

Description: Transfer boards - wood or plastic (some with movable seat)

When to Use: Transferring (sliding) residents who have good sitting balance and are cooperative from one level surface to another, e.g., bed to wheelchair, wheelchair to car seat or toilet. Can also be used by residents who require limited assistance but need additional safety and support. Movable seats increase resident comfort and reduce incidence of tissue damage during transfer.

Points to Remember: Ensure clothing is present between the resident's skin and the transfer device. The seat may be cushioned with a small towel for comfort. May be uncomfortable for larger residents. Usually used in conjunction with gait belts for safety depending on resident status.

Ensure boards have tapered ends, rounded edges, and appropriate weight capacity. Ensure wheels on equipment are locked and transfer surfaces are at same level. Remove lower bedrails from bed and remove arms and foot rests from chairs as appropriate.

Safety Basic Health Care Series Information is extracted directly from OSHA safety materials. For additional information consult www.OSHA.gov

