

## SAFETY BASICS *Healthcare Series*

### Lateral Transfer

**Activity:** Resident Handling

**Description:** Gurneys with transfer devices

**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.



**Points to Remember:** Two caregivers are required to perform this type of transfer. Additional assistance may be needed depending on resident status, e.g., for heavier or non-cooperative residents. Motorized height-adjustable gurneys with built-in slide boards are preferred to those adjusted by crank mechanism to minimize physical exertion required by caregiver.

Always ensure that lifting device is in good working order before use and is rated for the load weight to be transferred. Ensure wheels on equipment are locked. Ensure transfer surfaces are same level and at caregiver's waist level to avoid extended reaches and back flexion.

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