

SAFETY BASICS *Healthcare Series*

Lateral Transfer; Repositioning

Activity: Resident Handling

Description: Convertible wheelchair or Geri chair to stretcher

When to Use: For lateral transfer of residents who are partial or non-weight bearing. Eliminates the need to perform lift transfer in and out of wheelchairs.

Points to Remember: Two caregivers are required to perform lateral transfer. Additional assistance for lateral transfer may be needed depending on residents status, e.g., for heavier or non-cooperative residents. Wheelchairs that convert to stretchers may also have a mechanical transfer aid built in for bed-to-stretcher or stretcher-to-bed type transfers.

Motorized height-adjustable devices are preferred to those adjusted by crank mechanism to minimize physical exertion and risk of musculoskeletal injury to the caregiver. Always ensure 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 at same level and at a height that allows caregivers to work at 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