



Safer Practice Notice

Status

- Active
- Updated
- Resolved

Zone Application

- Provincial
- North
- Edmonton
- Central
- Calgary
- South

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For Action By:

- Front line staff
- Managers
- Operational Leaders

Contact:

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Prevention of upper extremity injuries to clients during assisted transfers and repositioning

The Issue

Clients have experienced upper extremity injury in a variety of care settings during episodes of assisted transfers / repositioning.

Impairments in cognition, motor control and sensation increase the chance of injury during assisted transfers / repositioning.

Action

- All facility-based staff that participate in client transfers and repositioning must complete *It's Your Move* training. For information on how / where to access training, e-mail: SafeClient.HandlingProgram@albertahealthservices.ca
- All inpatients and long term care residents will undergo a *functional assessment* (as per *It's Your Move* training) to determine the appropriate technique and equipment required for that client's transfers and repositioning
- Staff, from all areas of care, be familiar with the diagnoses, functional impairments, and functional status of the clients they work with.
- Staff, in all care settings, assesses each client prior to, and after, each transfer / repositioning to identify risks or changes in client status. Changes in client status, or the presentation of a new risk, will be reported to the most appropriate health care provider for further evaluation and action, as indicated.
- Staff should avoid pulling on clients' upper extremities during assisted transfers or repositioning activities, and ensure that upper extremities are safely and correctly positioned when using transfer devices.

Resources to assist staff can be found on AHS inSite by using search terms "Working Safely" or "It's Your Move"