COOPER UNIVERSITY HEALTH CARE
Patient Care Services Policies and Procedures

Supersedes: 05/01/2012  Section: Clinical
Reviewed: 10/13/2015  Subject: Safe Patient Handling (SPH) Policy

Notice: The official version of this Policy is contained in Cooper Policy Network and may have been revised since the document was printed.

I. PURPOSE:
   A. The use of safe patient handling (SPH) equipment for patients requiring assistance with transfers, standing, sitting, or repositioning will help reduce the risk of injury to the patient and caregiver, while increasing the comfort and quality of care provided to patients.

II. POLICY:
   A. It is the policy of Cooper University Health Care to use a minimal lift approach for patients who require caregiver assistance with lifting, standing, transferring, or repositioning. This includes, but is not limited to, the use of sliders, roller boards, hover mats, and minimal lifting equipment.

III. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION:
   A. Staff shall assess the patient’s mobility using the attached Patient Mobility Assessment Algorithm (Appendix A) prior to initiation of patient handling activities to plan for these activities, including determining what type of equipment, if any, is needed.
   B. Staff shall reassess the patient’s mobility each shift or as needed and document findings on unit specific nursing flow sheets.
   C. Staff shall assess the patient as independent, minimal assist, moderate assist or maximum assist using the attached Patient Mobility Assessment Algorithm (Appendix A).
      1. The independent patient will not require a lift.
      2. The minimal assist patient may require a minimum or moderate assist device.
      3. The moderate assist patient may require a moderate or maximum lift device.
      4. The maximum assist and total dependent patient may require a maximum assist device.
   D. Staff shall assess the patient for weight bearing ability and strength in extremities.
   E. Staff shall assess the patient for level of cooperation and comprehension.
   F. Staff shall assess the patient’s body weight.
   G. Staff shall assess for co-morbidities that may influence the type of device (ie., tubes, wounds, inability to lie flat or sit upright, multiple bone fractures).
H. Staff shall assess the room layout and unit environment with the intention of anticipating and addressing interferences to safe patient handling tasks

I. Management, champions, and SPH clinical coordinator can be consulted for assistance at any point during the patient assessment or use of SPH equipment.

J. Instructions for each piece of equipment are attached to the equipment and available on hospital computer’s portal.

K. Staff shall select the appropriate size and type (disposable or reusable) of sling and/or belt for each piece of equipment. See color codes and size selections on equipment. Refer also to equipment’s specific policy and procedure.

L. Staff shall use safe, standard methods and equipment in accordance with education and training, and refrain from manual methods for movement of patients. Staff shall support and assist co-workers in handling tasks

IV. TRAINING:

A. All new nursing staff will be oriented to SPH equipment during nurse orientation.

B. All current nursing staff will be oriented to SPH equipment during skills fairs and designated in-services provided by the equipment vendor representative, unit educators, unit champions, and SPH Clinical Coordinator as equipment is implemented.

C. Training may also be ongoing on an as needed basis and provided by SPH clinical coordinator and unit champions.

V. COMPLIANCE

A. Staff complies with this policy for patient handling tasks.

1. Staff reports equipment problems and program issues to a manager.

2. Non-compliance may indicate a need for retraining.

3. Staff reports an injury from a patient handling task immediately or as soon as the injury is recognized. In the event of injury, refer to Cooper University Health Care’s Corporate Policy 8.501 Occupational Health & Safety - Worker's Compensation for further instructions.

VI. PATIENT AND FAMILY EDUCATION

A. The staff will educate patient and family regarding the use of SPH equipment and increased patient safety with initial use of equipment and on an ongoing basis as needed.

VII. RELATED POLICIES:

8.501 Occupational Health & Safety - Worker's Compensation

Safe Patient Handling Equipment
VIII. REFERENCES:


Kaleida Health 2006

University of Connecticut Health Care Center John Dempsey Hospital

APPROVED BY:
Lisa C. Laphan-Morad, RN, MSN, APN-C, NEA-BC, CCRN
Associate Chief Nursing Officer/VP Patient Care Services

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assigned Nursing Council Member–Log</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Moriarty, RN</td>
<td>05/01/2012</td>
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APPENDIX A: Patient Mobility Assessment Algorithm

- Cooperative
  - Full Weight Bearing on both legs
  - Steady
  
  YES

- Bedrest/ Repositioning
  
  YES

  Independent

  NO

  Slider sheet

  NO

- Can perform ~75% of activity
  - Can cooperate fully
  - Full Weight Bearing on at least one arm and leg
  - Sits up well without assistance
  
  YES

  Min assist

  NO

- Can perform ~50% of activity
  - Can follow simple directions
  - Full Weight Bearing or Partial Weight Bearing on 1 or both arms/
  - Full Weight Bearing or Partial Weight Bearing on 1 or both legs/
  - Can hold on with one or both hands
  - Sits up with assistance
  
  YES

  Mod assist lift

  NO

- Unable to help (fully dependent)
  - Unable/unwilling to cooperate
  - Non-weight Bearing
  
  YES

  Max assist lift