



Patient Safety

All efforts should be taken to ensure the safety of patients while under the care or supervision of the therapy department – including, but not limited to:

- Ensuring that all treating clinicians are aware of and adhering to all precautions and contraindications for each patient that they are treating.
- Ensuring that all treating clinicians are aware of and adhering to goals and needs of the discharge destination for each resident that they are treating.
- Ensuring that the appropriate level of assistance is provided during transfers, standing, ambulation, and other functional tasks, including the number of staff available to assist/supervise.
- Gait belts should be used whenever a therapy patient is shifting ANY weight from the bed/wheelchair to the lower extremities (ie: not required for bed mobility, positioning, splinting, etc) unless clinically inappropriate to do so because of feeding tube, wound, abdominal/lumbar/thoracic incision, etc.
- Leg rests should be used whenever a patient is transported via wheelchair to avoid entrapment of the lower extremities under the chair.
- Locking mechanisms for bed and wheelchairs should be used whenever patient is transferring to/from the surface or sitting at the edge for activities.
- Employees must complete proper training regarding use of mechanical lifts prior to assisting with operation. Knowing the patient's current level of functional mobility is necessary to ensure safe set up / transfers when using a mechanical lift. Never perform mechanical lift transfers without the assistance of at least 2 individuals.
- Ensuring that all treating clinicians are aware of and adhering to precautions and contraindications of any physical agent modality or treatment techniques
- Patients should always be left within reach of the call-bell, near facility staff/caregiver, or with some other method of notifying others of needs.
- Care should be taken to protect our patients from skin tears. Only use equipment in good repair and take care in transferring and transporting patients to prevent skin tears or abrasions.
- Ensure patients are wearing the appropriate footwear before any patient care is initiated involving weight-bearing. Do not stand, transfer, or ambulate a patient without appropriate footwear. Appropriate footwear should have a back that encloses the heel to prevent the foot from coming out (ie: slides and backless slippers are inappropriate). Crocs, sandals, etc require backing around the heel. CTS staff will follow facility policy for appropriate footwear during showers.
- Trimming nails for residents without medical complications is within the scope of practice of CNAs. However, if any contraindications are present that compromise distal circulation or sensation (ex: diabetes, peripheral neuropathy) or blood coagulation (ex: coumadin, hemophilia) the resident should be referred back to facility nursing for nail care and trimming.
- When an incident/accident occurs involving a patient, the CTS incident reporting form will be completed immediately and sent to the Corporate Office/Area Director, in addition to any other forms required of the facility.

Employee Signature

Date

Printed Name