VCH Safety Summit: Reflections on COVID

2021 JOHSC conference

September 15, 2021

Virtual experience
Musculoskeletal Injury Prevention Team

Reposition Slings vs. Slider Sheets – What Gives?
By the end, you will know...

- VCH Safe Patient Handling Standard
- When to use manual assistance versus mechanical devices
- How to correctly choose method of repositioning
- How to use a repositioning sling for boosting and turning
What is our Safe Patient Handling standard?

• Outlines responsibilities, procedures and tools to minimize staff exposure to MSI risk factors associated with patient handling.

• Applies to ALL VCH staff, contractors and students
What is our Safe Patient Handling standard?

- Staff are expected to use mechanical equipment to reduce risk of injury
- Staff can only perform manual patient handling tasks after a point of care assessment (PoCRA) is complete and if the following criteria are met

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Patient</th>
<th>Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transfers/ambulation/</td>
<td>1. Follows directions/cueing 2. Actively participates in the task</td>
<td>Provides no more than 35 lbs of assistance **</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>moving limbs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repositioning/ care</td>
<td>1. Follows directions/cueing 2. Actively participates in the task</td>
<td>Guides with minimal physical force, cues and/or verbally directs patient movement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In Exceptional Care Circumstances (e.g. emergencies/evacuations/medical contraindications), non-standard procedures including manual handling of patients may be required.
Manual Assistance vs Mechanical Device

CRITERIA:

Patient MUST

1. Follow simple instructions AND Be cooperative

2. Physically participate with the task
Manual Assistance vs Mechanical Device

CRITERIA:

Patient MUST

1. Follow simple instructions AND Be cooperative

2. Physically participate with the task

OK to proceed/continue with manual patient handling

Yes
Manual Assistance vs Mechanical Device

CRITERIA:
Patient MUST
1. Follow simple instructions AND Be cooperative
2. Physically participate with the task

OK to proceed/continue with manual patient handling
- Repositioning or bed care
- Transfers, ambulation or moving limbs

physical guiding and verbal cueing
Maximum of 35lb of assistance
Manual Assistance vs Mechanical Device

**CRITERIA:**

Patient MUST

1. Follow simple instructions AND Be cooperative

2. Physically participate with the task

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**Yes**

OK to proceed/continue with manual patient handling

- Repositioning or bed care
- Transfers, ambulation or moving limbs

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**No**

Use of mechanical devices – lifts/slings

- Physical guiding and verbal cueing
- Maximum of 35lb of assistance

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**REMEMBER** - Staff can refuse unsafe work
Manual Assistance vs Mechanical Device

Exceptional Care Circumstances

- Extra person(s)
- Modify the task
- Non standard manual handling
Repositioning
Why does repositioning matter?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity Desc</th>
<th>WSBC Days Lost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boosting in bed</td>
<td>3,744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From standing/ walking/ ambulation</td>
<td>3,372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turning in bed (side to side)</td>
<td>2,679</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transferring to/from chair/bed</td>
<td>1,814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1,801</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peri-care / changing pad</td>
<td>1,751</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Why does repositioning matter?

Since 2020

• Over 35% of all patient handling injuries are related to patient repositioning in bed

• 30% of all WSBC claim costs associated with patient handling are due to bed repositioning and bed care related incidents
Which to use? Slider sheets vs repositioning slings

- **Decision Tree: When to use a Repositioning sling vs Slider sheet to Boost a patient**
  (vch.ca)

- **Use a repositioning sling if...**
  
  - Patient have any of the following:
    - Pressure injury or wounds
  
  - Patient cannot do any of the following:
    - Follows simple commands and is cooperative
    - Roll independently or with minimal assistance
    - Can tuck and hold chin, bend knees and push off with feet
    - Tolerates flat or Trendelenburg positions
Turning with repositioning slings

- Video MSIP - Positioning Sling - Turning a patient using a ceiling lift - YouTube
Boosting using repositioning slings

• Boosting with positioning sling - YouTube
Resources (and where to find them)
Resources (and where to find them)

Ergonomics & musculoskeletal injury prevention (MSIP)

The Musculoskeletal Injury Prevention (MSIP) team believes that the best patient/resident/client care is delivered by employees who are healthy and work safely. Our goal is to reduce musculoskeletal injuries on a departmental and institutional level and support staff to provide direct and indirect safe patient care. We accomplish this goal by consulting and collaborating with staff, leaders and Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committees. We work together to eliminate or reduce the risk of musculoskeletal injuries by providing education, developing resources, and assisting with developing policies and procedures.

MSIP programs

- Safe patient handling (SPH)
- Workstation ergonomics
- Safe manual material handling
- Inpatient care coach program
- Facility design & equipment usability

Policies & standards

- VCH Musculoskeletal Injury Prevention Standard
- VCH Safe Patient Handling Standard

MSIP education

- Musculoskeletal Injury Prevention for All VCH Staff - LearningHub (15 min intro course)
- Patient Handling for All VCH Staff - LearningHub (50 min course)
Thank you